MR A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): None of them saythat the prohibition of cow-slaughter interfers with their religious duties.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): At any rate, we do not know what the Mahomedans think.

The resolution was put to the vote and lost, 19 voting *for* and 21 *against*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I demand a poll.

The poll was then taken with the following result:—

AYES—20

1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
2. Mr. Paul V. Daniel.
3. Mr. A. Govinda Menon.
4. Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
5. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.
6. Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.
7. Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.
8. Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
9. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.
10. Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.
11. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.
12. Mr. M. N. Pillai.
13. Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.
14. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
15. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
16. Mr. P. Paramesvaran.
17. Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
18. Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
19. Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar.
20. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.

NOES—21

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
3. Mr. L. C. Hodgson.
4. Mr. A. Hoogewerf.
5. Mr. M. K. Khadir Pillai.
6. Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.
7. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.
8. Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.
9. Rev Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
10. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
11. Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
12. Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
13. Mr. R. Nilakanda Pillai.
14. Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
15. Mr. W. H. Pitt.
16. Mr. M. Raja Raja Varma.
17. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
18. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
19. Mr. Dominic Tomman.
20. Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.
21. Mr. A. J. Van Ross.

The resolution was lost.

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***Appointment of a Retrenchment Committee.***

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

*This Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of the official and non-official members of this Council be appointed to consider the question of further retrenchment in public expenditure.*

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

It has been urged by almost all non-official members of this Council that retrenchment in public expenditure is an absolute necessity if we are to place our finances on a stable basis and to utilise our revenues for huge schemes of nation-building and industrial regeneration. In my budget speech last year, I made particular mention of the fact that we are leading a hand-to-mouth existence in the region of finance. In the financial Secretary's review of the revenue and expenditure for ten years at the end of 1097, he has unmistakably told us :

"Thus during the ten years under review the State's revenue rose from Rs. 138 lakhs to 195 lakhs, *i. e.*, by Rs. 57 lakhs or 41 per cent and the expenditure from Rs. 135 lakhs to Rs. 196 lakhs, *i. e.*, by Rs. 61 lakhs or 45 per cent."

From this statement it is abundantly clear that our expenditure is not proportionate to the revenue we realise every year. Similarly, if we review the financial position of this country for ten years from 1077 to 1087 we find that the revenue has increased from about Rs. 96 lakhs to Rs. 137 lakhs in 1097, *i. e.*, by Rs. 41 lakhs, and the expenditure from Rs. 99 lakhs to Rs. 134 lakhs, *i. e.*, by Rs. 35 lakhs. Though the Government had to sustain deficits consecutively for five or six years in that period and to incur huge expenditure on big undertakings, the expenditure has never exceeded the revenue. The increase of revenue by Rs.4 lakhs in 10 years up to 1097 is seen to have been contributed mainly by excise, customs, salt, stamps and education. In view of the growing strength of the temperance movement, the opening of the Cochin harbour, and the agitation against enhancement of salt duty, we cannot reasonably expect a steady growth of revenue under the above-mentioned heads. Mr. George himself has frankly admitted in his budget speech in 1097 that "as regards the future, it would be rash to expect any large or sudden increases in our normal resources". In recent years Government have been very liberal in allotments to various departments under the delusion that we are having prosperous times. In 1095 and 1096, though the revenue has increased only by Rs. 13 lakhs, the expenditure has increased by Rs. 35 lakhs. The cause of this abnormal rise in expenditure is explained away by the Government.

If we read the Mysore Dewan's address to the Representative Assembly we find that within the last 20 years the revenue of that State has increased from Rs. 207 lakhs to Rs. 332 lakhs and expenditure from Rs.201 lakhs to Rs.329 lakhs, while the assets of the State has increased from nearly Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 16 crores. During these years a railway was constructed to the extent of 255 miles at a capital cost of Rs. 178 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 211 lakhs was spent for the Krishna Raja Sagara and allied works, and a sum of Rs. 125 lakhs for the development of the Cauvery Power Scheme. The resources of the State were augmented in Mysore by the growth of the gold-mining industry, the harnessing of the Sivasamudram falls, the extension of transport facilities, the direct management of railways and the remarkable growth of productive industries. The total outlay on productive works in that State now

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comes to Rs. 1,100 lakhs. Though we can boast of a steady increase in our revenue, our ordinary expenditure is nearly outrunning the ordinary sources of income. Questions like the constitution of the Travancore University, the extension of railway from Kottarakara to Alwaye, and from Trivandrum to Nagercoil, the construction of the Alleppey canal, the working of the hydraulic powers, and the development of the paper, match and sugar industries stare us in the face. We are gasping for funds. We have reached the highwater mark of direct and indirect taxation. At this juncture the only solution for these problems is to put the finances on a stable basis and to begin a programme of strict retrenchment extending over a definite period to be suggested by a committee tike the one proposed to be established by this resolution.

Sir, I have purposely used the phrase "*further* retrenchment" in my resolution, as we are told that Government have made all possible retrenchment. Mr. George, when speaking about Mr. Kunjitomman's resolution on the first session of the Council last year, made certain remarks which require reconsideration. He said:

"I do not think any further substantial reduction can be made in any departmen without risk to its efficiency."

But at the same time he admitted:

"My contention is not that there is absolutely no possibi lity of any retrenchment whatsoever. We can no doubt effect some retrenchment here and there. My position is that there is no need to appoint a committee for this purpose. For making a few reductions here and there, it is not necessary that a committee should sit and deliberate. We had a Salaries Committee which considered the question in all its aspects."

This remark was made only in reference to the retrenchment in salaries and allowances. The Salaries Committee mainly concerned itself only with the revison of salaries and not with the question of all-round retrenchment in public expenditure consistent with efficiency. According to the suggestion of the Salaries Committee, though 1,160 hands have been reduced by the revision of salaries, owing to the creation of new appointments, the separation of Devaswom from the Revenue Department and departmental re-organisations, the expenditure has increased to a considerable extent. Now we spend 37·5 per cent. of our revenues on salaries against 36.5 per cent. in Mysore.

I shall make a few suggestions as to how retrenchment can be effected in certain departments. Without a close scrutiny of each department, it will not be possible for anybody to suggest a detailed scheme of retrenchment. Take, for instance, the Revenue Department which was performing judicial, revenue, Devaswom and other functions. In 1081, the expenditure on this department was Rs. 5,27,684 and in 1097 it has swelled to Rs. 9,85,377; *i. e.*, by Rs. 4½ lakhs, though Tahsildars and Peishkars are divested of various functions. Including the cost of Revenue Survey and Settlement the expenditure in 1081 was only Rs. 7,93,714. In 1085, the total charges were Rs. 7,99,507 and the net revenue Rs. 31,86,428. In 1097, the net revenue was only Rs. 30¼ lakhs even though the functions of revenue officers were considerably reduced by the constitution of the Maramat and Devaswom

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departments and by the appointment of additional Stationary Magistrates and Devaswom Assistants. Before the creation of the post of Land Revenue Commissioner, as the Dewan had to co-ordinate the work of all revenue subordinates, the Peishkars had to be invested with large powers. Now the salary of these revenue officers can be further reduced and division officers and Inspectors can be appointed on lesser salaries as in the Excise, Police and other departments. I do not say that this reform can be effected immediately, but a committee can suggest the number of appointments and fix the salaries and suggest a period within which time reform can be begun and completed.

In the Excise Department, a huge reduction can be made in the staff if the number of divisions is reduced and the work of collecting *kist* is entrusted to the Revenue Department as is done in the Madras Presidency and is reported to be suggested by the Excise Conference recently held in Trivandrum. In Madras the number of Assistant Excise Commissioners was reduced from 12 to 9. In this small State, we have 11 Assistant Excise Commissioners! Without imparing efficiency, I think the Nagercoil and Salt Factories Circles can be amalgamated. The Kayankulam Circle may be clubbed together with Alleppey and Quilon. Piravam may be amalgamated with Arukutti, Alwaye or Kottayam and the Devicolam Division may be completely abolished. Three Deputy Commissioners or Assistant Excise Commissioners will be able to supervise the work of the Inspectors and their subordinates. I am sure no departmental head will agree to the reduction of a single officer as he has fallen in a groove from which his steps cannot be deflected. If a committee will enquire into the work of each department minutely, I think it will be easy to persuade and convince departmental heads to effect some retrenchment for the public good.

With respect to the Forest Department, it is well-known that we are not getting any net profit proportionate to the expenditure. In 1088, the expenditure on this department was Rs. 7,31,222 and the net revenue Rs. 5,42,501. In 1097, though we spent Rs. 9,07,909 on this department, the net revenue that we realised was Rs. 3,38,806. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai pointed out at the last meeting of the Council that the profit which the department makes is 1 anna 2 pies per cubic foot, and he remarked that it was certainly a bad business that we should sell our timber of all species at an average net profit of 1 anna 2 pies. If the Forest Department concerns itself only with the conservation of reserve forests and the resources thereof, and if the illicit removal and felling of royal trees outside the forest areas is looked after by the Police, no doubt the staff can be considerably reduced. If we invest Rs. 10 lakhs which we now spend on forests in a good concern, with the profits arising therefrom we will be able to conserve our reserves and keep the whole establishment for purposes of conserving our resources without selling one cubic foot of timber. A scheme ought to be drafted by the proposed committee

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in consultation with the Conservator of Forests to reduce expenditure and to realise more income from the sums to be expended on the department.

It is recognised by the Government and the public that the expenditure on education is alarmingly increasing. By the conversion of English Middle Schools into Anglo-Vernacular Schools as in Cochin and by the abolition of Vernacular Middle Schools and Vernacular High Schools, it is possible to reduce the number of teachers and to curtail the expenditure on vernacular education. The Education Expenditure Committee had definitely recommended that a certain percentage of English Schools might be relegated to the management of private bodies every year. This scheme should be put into actual practice and the committee which is proposed to be appointed may consider the feasibility of the arrangement and fix a term within which it may be carried out. I believe that, by decentralisation of powers in favour of subordinate officers, the post of Personal Assistant to the Director and that of the Inspector of English Schools may be conveniently abolished. In the light of the recommendations of the University Committee, many changes will have to be introduced in the educational system of the country, which, of course, must be considered by a committee of officials and non-officials. The shift system in the primary schools introduced by Dr. Paranjpye in Bombay may be tried here also.

The Development Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Industries and Co-operation can be brought under the supervision of a single officer in the State. In 1097, a sum of Rs. 63,358 was spent on direction in the Industries Department, and Rs. 41,017 in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. If these departments are under one Director and if the subordinates are directed to conduct joint investigations and researches wherever necessary and if Co-operative Societies are formed for agricultural and industrial purposes according to the suggestions of the Director, much expenditure can be saved and the working of the departments can be made more efficient. I am not dwelling at length on this topic as Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's motion for a committee to inquire into the working of the Development Departments is tabled for discussion.

In the Registration Department the revenue in 1081 was Rs. 3,21,388 which has increased to Rs. 6,58,608 in 1097, that is, by Rs. 3,37,250, while the expenditure, which in 1081 was Rs. 1,12,424, has, swelled up to Rs. 2,60,136, that is by Rs. 1,47,739. In Baroda, Village Panchayats are asked to help the Registration Department. In Ceylon, High Court advocates and proctors are allowed to register documents. It is to be considered whether our expenditure on this department can be curtailed by following the examples of Ceylon and Baroda.

I am of opinion that the separation of the Maramat Department from the P. W. D. entails a waste of public money. The Chief Engineer can depute any caste Hindu subordinate to look after temples and palaces without the creation of a separate department. Though the



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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

Devaswom Department is outside the province of this Council, I recommend to the Government that the constitution of Devaswom committees and the devolution of powers now possessed by certain officers to the committees will gradually curtail unnecessary expenditure and the money saved can be spent for more useful purposes.

About the Anchal Deparment the less said the better. It is a perpetual source of loss to the Government. A committee should thoroughly inquire into the working of that department and see whether the expenditure cannot be made proportionate to the revenue derived from the department. The Inchcape Committee's suggestion with regard to the abolition of motor service in the postal department may be considered.

These are only stray suggestions to show that there is ample scope for further retrenchment in the public expenditure. While I was working as a member of the Press Committee, I came to know that stationery articles were not properly utilised in the various departments. By standardsation of forms and by supply of suitable materials, the expense on stationery and printing articles can be minimised. I know that there is too much waste in the Stationery Department. It is well-known that the Salaries Committee's superficial suggestions about the Press were not helpful to effect retrenchment.

In this connection, I like to urge for the consideration of the Government the question of stores in the various departments. Dr. Lakshmanan may perhaps be able to enlighten us whether a good quantity of the medicines and other articles now purchased from foreign countries cannot be manufactured here profitably. The question of stores in the P. W. D., I presume, will be thoroughly discussed by the committee appointed for the purpose. It would be better to appoint a common agency as has been done in Mysore. This too is a problem for the Retrenchment Committee to solve.

With regard to Medical and Sanitary Departments, the Campbell Committee in Madras has made certain proposals which too deserve consideration.

I observe that a curious notion is entertained by the other side of the House with regard to the question of salaries. I am not at all surprised at the position they take. But from the standpoint of the taxpayer, I have to protest against that principle. Mr. George, in his speech on Mr. Kunjitomman's resolution in the first session of the Council in 1098, compared the salaries of officers in Travancore with those obtaining in British India and other Indian States and remarked that after all the salaries ought to depend a great deal on the qualifications of the men entertained and the duties we expect of them. He fears that if we lowered the salary we would not get the right type of men. He also maintains that officers here should not be paid far less than officers in Mysore. In short, he argued that, for men of the same

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qualification, the salaries here should not be much lower than elsewhere. I, for my part, demur to this proposition. First of all, I believe that salaries ought to be fixed for posts and not for men. When a European or other foreigner is appointed to a post, the Travancore Government are prepared to pay a higher salary to him. But if an equally clever Travancorean is entertained in service he is given a lower scale. The degree of efficiency and qualifications do not alone help to determine the scales of salary. The salaries of officers in this State must entirely depend upon the revenue of the State and the standard of living in the country. We need not fear that, if our salaries are less, our educated men will not come forward to accept public service. We need not enhance the salaries as an allurement to our educated young men. But if we want to attract foreigners to our service we have to give high salaries. Fortunately we are not in dire need of foreigners. If we have not competent officers, we can train our own men. I do not understand the logic of Mr. George's statement that the officers in Travancore should get the same salaries as in Mysore. What is the annual revenue of the Mysore state? What is the extent of the country? Is the standard of living there higher or lower than here? But we spend one per cent. more of our revenue on salaries than in Mysore. A committee ought to fix certain salaries for all posts in Government service with reference to the revenue of the State, the responsibilities of the post and the standard of living obtaining in this country. If the officers consider Government service as a profession and not as a service, they should not be entitled to any pension after retirement.

Sir, for these reasons, I move for the appointment of a committee to go into the whole question of retrenchment in public expenditure, for the reduction of staff, for the fixation of salaries for posts, for the amalgamation of some departments, for decentralisation of powers, and for redistribution of duties.

PRESIDENT: Is there anybody to second the resolution?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I second the resolution moved by Mr. Madhava Variar.

സർക്കാർ ചെലവ് കുറയ്ക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ വീണ്ടും ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരു Retrenchment Committee വേണമെന്ന് മിസ്റ്റർ മാധവവാര്യർ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ഹാർദ്ദമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ ആദ്യമായി പതിയുന്നതു രാജ്യത്തിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിലാണ്. ഇടക്കാലം മുതൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുപരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളാലും ശമ്പളവർദ്ധനയാലും, നൂതനമായ ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടികളാലും, ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ സീമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിക്കാൻ ഇടയായി. ൧൦൮൦ മുതൽ ൧൦൯൦ വരെയുള്ള ആണ്ടുകളിൽ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളുടെ കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കു

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

മ്പോൾ ഈ പരമാർത്ഥം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. പല വഴികളിലും പരിഷ്കൃത നിലയിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങൾ സാധിക്കുന്നതിനു ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുണ്ടാകുന്ന വർദ്ധനകളെ ഒഴിച്ചുവയ്ക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നാണ് സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞുപോരുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ രാജ്യഭരണരിപ്പോർട്ട് ഉണ്ടായിതുടങ്ങിയകാലം മുതൽ ക ൦ വ്യ ൦ -ാമാണ്ടുവരെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ക്രമാഗതമായ വർദ്ധനയുണ്ടായിരിക്കയും അത് നടുത്തകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു സാമ്യവും താരതമ്യവുമില്ലാതെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കായിട്ടാണെന്നുള്ള സമാധാനം ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിനില്ക്കുന്നതല്ല. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള വർദ്ധനയാണ് അതിൽ പിന്നീടുള്ള ത്രൈവാർഷികപ്രജാസഭകളിൽ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കഴിയുംവിധം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള നിവേദനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്.

ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിലുള്ള ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി നിശ്ചയിച്ച Salaries Committee ക്കാരോട് അപ്പോഴുള്ള ശമ്പളക്കാരിൽ കുറയ്ക്കാവുന്ന സംഗതിക്രമങ്ങൾ പര്യാലോചിക്കാൻ അവരെ ഭരമേല്പിച്ചു. അതിന്റെ ഫലമായി അവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ക്രമ്യ൦ ൦ ശമ്പളക്കാരെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ശിപാർശ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അപൂർവ്വം ചില വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും; കുറെ ഇടത്തരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും, ഒട്ടുവളരെ സാധുക്കളായ ശിപായിമാരുടെ ജോലികളും ആണ് അതിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളത്. കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാരുടെ ശിപാർശയിൽ പലതും ഗവർൺമെൻറു സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും ചില ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. Salaries Committee ക്കാരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്മേൽ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള പലേ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളാലും, ശമ്പളക്കൂടുതലുകളാലും, നൂതനമായ ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടികളാലും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഓരോ ദിവസവും പൂർവ്വാധികം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണ ചെയ്യുന്നതു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളുടെ ഫലമായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മുഴുവൻ ശമ്പളങ്ങളും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നകാലത്തു ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഭയങ്കരമായ നിലയിൽ എത്തുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലും മറു നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു Retrenchment Committee കൾ വേലചെയ്തുവരുന്ന കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെയും ബലമായി ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

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പുറമെയുള്ള രാജ്യങ്ങളുടെ ശമ്പളത്തോതുകളെ ഒക്കാക്കീട്ടുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികളാണ് നമുക്കും Retrenchment Committee യെ അപേക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതായിവന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായി പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ കരുതുന്നില്ല.

ദിവാൻജി, ഹൈക്കോടതിജഡ്ജിമാർ ഇവക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ ന്യായമായി കരുതാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും പ്രത്യേകപരിശീലനവും വേണ്ടതായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾ ഒഴികെ മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അധികൃതന്മാർക്കു ൦൦ രൂപായിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഹൈക്കോടതി ഫ്രാം ജഡ്ജിക്കു ൨,൫൦൦ രൂപായും ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനു അതിലുപരിയായ ശമ്പളവും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അധികൃതന്മാരുടെ ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ കുറച്ചു ൫൦൦ രൂപാവരെയാക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഇവിടെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കു പുറമെനിന്നും ആളുകളെ കിട്ടാതെ വരുമെന്നുള്ള ആക്ഷേപം പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. അതിനാൽ വരുന്ന ദോഷങ്ങളെ സഹിക്കാൻ ഇവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നത്. ആണ്ടുതോറും നൂറു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് ഇവിടെയുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ നിറക്കാൻ ഇവിടെ ആളുകൾ ഇല്ലെന്നുവരുന്നതായാൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ചിലവിനെ കുറച്ച് ആവകുപ്പിനെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാഭായസ്ഥിതികളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള വഴികളിൽ ചിലവാക്കുന്നത് എത്രയോ ഉചിതമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് തോന്നുന്നത്. ഇവിടത്തെ സിവിൽ ലീസ്റ്റിനെ അദ്യവസാനം പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പലേ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും, പലേ ശമ്പളങ്ങളും ആവശ്യത്തിൽ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നു് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ കൂടുന്നതും കുറയുന്നതും അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായ ആളിനെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായും കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. അഞ്ചൽസൂപ്രണ്ടിനു ൨൫൦ രൂപാമുതൽ ൩൫൦ രൂപാ വരെയും, രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡയറക്ടർക്കു ൩൫൦ രൂപാ മുതൽ ൫൦൦ രൂപാവരെയും ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ മതിയാകുമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കയും ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളുടെ ഭരണം ഭംഗിയായി നടത്തിപ്പോരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു കാര്യക്ഷമതയുള്ള വേണ്ടീട്ടെന്നാണ് ഗവർൺമെൻറു സമാധാനം പറയുന്നതു. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് അനുരൂപന്മാരായ ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത് നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനാലാണ് കാര്യക്ഷമ

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai]

ത നില്ക്കുന്നത. ശേഷിയില്ലാത്ത ഒരാൾക്ക് എത്ര തന്നെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുത്താലും ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാര്യക്ഷമത കിട്ടുന്നതല്ല.

ഏതായാലും പലേ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിലും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കാൻ ധാരാളം സൌകര്യമുള്ളതാണ്. ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിനെ എടുക്കാം

ക ൦ വ്യന്യ ൽ നാല് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണറന്മാരും ന്യ സക്കിൾ ആഫീസറന്മാരും, ഇ വ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നത് ക ൦ ൻ ഇ ൈ പരിഷ്കാരത്തിൽ ന അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണറന്മാരും ക ൦ സക്കിൾ ആഫീസറന്മാരും, ൈ ഫ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരുമാക്കി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു.

ക ൦ ൻ വ്യ-ൽ ക ഫ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണറന്മാരും, ഇ വ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും ന്യ ക സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരുമായി വീണ്ടും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

ൻപതുവർഷങ്ങൾകഴിഞ്ഞതിൽ പിന്നീട് അപ്പോഴത്തെസ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് അനുരൂപമായി ക ൦ ൻ ഇ ൽ പരിഷ്കാരം നടത്തീട്ടുള്ളതിനു രണ്ടു വർഷങ്ങൾക്കകം വീണ്ടും പരിഷ്കാരം നടത്തി അതിൽ ഉയർന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും അവരുടെ ശമ്പളങ്ങളേയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിൽ വരവുവർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനനുസരിച്ചു ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നും, അതിലേക്കു ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ, ഫാറസ്റ്റ് രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ, ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളെ താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി നോക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഉള്ള വാദങ്ങളാണ് ഈ പരിഷ്കാരത്തിനു സമാധാനമായി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറോസ്സിൻറെ ഭരണത്തിൽ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിൽ ക ൦ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ വരവിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി പറയുന്നതിൻറെ പരമാർത്ഥം എങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നു പരിശോധിക്കാം.

(ക) ഉപ്പിൽമാത്രം ഇ ന്യ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വർദ്ധന തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവർൺമെൻറുതന്നെ വിചാരിച്ചിരിക്കാത്ത ഒരു യാദൃച്ഛികസംഭവത്താൽ കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ളതാണ്.

(ഖ) കള്ളു ചെത്താനുള്ള വൃക്ഷങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ക ന്യ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായും,

(ഗ) ചാരായത്തിൽനിന്നും ഖ ന്യ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപായും,

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(ര) പൊകുയിൽനിന്നും ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപായും,

(ഭ) കസ്റ്റംസിൽനിന്നും ഏഴു ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായും വദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു.

ഇങ്ങനെയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വദ്ധന ഓരൊ ഇനത്തിലേയും നികുതികളെ വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും, കസ്റ്റംസിൽ, റൊരിഫ് റേറുകളെ കൂട്ടുകയും ചെയ്തതിനാലാണെന്നുള്ള വാസ്തവത്തെ ആക്ഷേപം മറച്ചു വയ്ക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. ആരുടെയും ശ്രമംകൂടാതെ വദ്ധിച്ചുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള മുതലെടുപ്പിന്റെ തോതിനെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ഫാമിൻ ഭ-ൽ ഏഴുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിവന്നിരുന്നത് ഫാമിൻ വ-ൽ രണ്ടുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായായി വദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് അറിയുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ മൂന്നുവർഷങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് എക്സൈസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ ഒരുലക്ഷം രൂപയോളം വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു ന്യായമായ കാരണങ്ങളൊന്നുംതന്നെയില്ലാത്തതാണ്. എക്സൈസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ ഉയന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ പലതും കുറയ്ക്കാനുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ദേവികുളത്തേക്കും കോട്ടയത്തേക്കും ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ മതിയാകുന്നതാണ്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ആലപ്പുഴയ്ക്കും കായംകുളത്തേക്കും ഒരാൾ മതിയാകുന്നതാണ്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ നാഗർകോവിലിലേക്കും ഉപ്പളങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരാൾ മതിയാകുന്നതാണ്. ഏ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആഫീസിൽ ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. മാനേജരായി ഒരു ഒന്നാംഗ്രേഡ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ധാരാളം മതിയാകുന്നതാണു. സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരുടെ സൃഷ്ടികാലം മുതൽ ആയത് ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നും ആ ഉദ്യോഗം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തോളം അതാവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു നിരന്തരമായി പറയാൻ തയ്യാറുള്ളതുമായ ആ ഉദ്യോഗത്തെ വേണ്ടെന്നുവയ്ക്കുന്നതിൽ ഒരാക്ഷേപവും ഇല്ലാത്തതാണ്. പോലീസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരെ യാതൊരു അസൌകര്യവും കൂടാതെ കുറയ്ക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു മറെറാരു വഴിയുള്ളതു് ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കായി ആളുകളെ നിയമിക്കയല്ലാതെ ഒരു കാരണവശാലും ആളുകൾക്കായി ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കയും അതിലേക്കായി ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കയും ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിലുപരിയായി മറെറാരുകാര്യംകൂടി പറയാനുള്ളതു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് അവരുടെ

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[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar]

ശമ്പളത്തിനതക്കവണ്ണം ജോലികൊടുക്കയും, അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു ആ ജോലി ശരിയായി ചെയ്യിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ പബ്ലിക്ക സർവ്വീസിലുള്ള പലെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും കുറയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതും അതിനാൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു വലുതായ ലാഭം വരുന്നതുമാകുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: How is that relevant to the discussion?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): It is mere wastage of public money.

PRESIDENT: How is it relevant to the question of appointing a retrenchment committee?

MR T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): That is to restrict the wastage of public money.

PRESIDENT: I think there is no connection between the two. There may be wastage and we ought to prevent it. But how is it relevant to the question in hand?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): If that is so, I am not pressing it.

ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ദുഷ്പ്രാന്തങ്ങളും ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനും മിസ്റ്റർ മാധവവാരിയരുടെ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ പറയുന്നമാതിരി ഒരു Retrenchment Committee യെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു ഞാനും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: We will now rise and meet again at 3-20 P. M.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-35 P. M. and reassembled at 3-27 P. M.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, both in this Council and outside, I have been advocating retrenchment for some years now. I do not propose going over the same ground. The illustrations brought forward by Mr. Madhava Variar and Mr. Kumara Pillai are enough to show that there is ground for the appointment of a committee to explore further avenues of retrenchment. It is not necessary for us to make out the lines on which the retrenchment should be effected. We need only convince the House that further retrenchment is *possible*. In this matter the object of the Government and the non-official members of the House cannot but be the same. All of us are against the wastage of public funds; all of us are for conservation of public funds; and all of us want more and more funds for purposes of development, and for enabling the people to increase their tax-paying capacity; and when the tax paying capacity is increased the public revenues will also increase. Therefore, as I began by submitting, as our object is the same, I believe there cannot be two opinions on the necessity for the appointment of a committee for the purpose.

No doubt, the major portion of the work of the committee may have reference to salaries and allowances and a Salaries Committee has

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already sat and expressed its opinions. But we doubt whether the opinions of the Salaries Committee were not *ex parte* in the matter. The wage-earner has hitherto had the privilege of dictating wages. The public who were the tax-payers had not a voice in the settlement of the rate of the salaries and other emoluments that are paid to officers. Therefore, the action of the official world hitherto cannot but be regarded as something like a plaintiff sitting to adjudicate his own case. We, on behalf of the public, are entitled to have our say on what salaries should be paid or what salaries certain places deserve. The evidence taken by the Salaries Committee too seems to have been more or less from departmental officers. Therefore I once again say that the public have not been consulted; and therefore the pronouncement of the Salaries Committee cannot bind the public; and hence we are entitled to call upon the Government for further exploration of all possible avenues of retrenchment.

It has been a standing complaint in our State that the services are over-manned and over-paid. Mr. George, in his last budget speech, referred to the Government's solicitude to lop off 'unnecessary branches' as he put it. Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai may tell us that thinning is very necessary for the health of the remaining survivors in a forest. For the health generally of the official world, a little reduction of fat also may be necessary and may be useful towards greater strength and greater efficiency. When, therefore, we talk of fewer appointments and less salaries, we do not say it must be at the sacrifice of efficiency. But, keeping the fetish of efficiency in our mind, there may yet be avenues for further exploration; and as the object in all these cases is one and the same, as we cannot have two opinions on the subject, I commend the proposition to the House.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, before discussing the question as to whether any further retrenchment is possible or not, it may be useful to examine how we stand financially at present compared with the previous years. When Mr. Tariatu Kunji Tomman's resolution was discussed at the last Medam session of this Council, Mr. George, the Financial Secretary to Government, quoted certain figures to show the percentages of expenditure under Salaries and Establishment in proportion to the gross revenue of the State. Up to the end of 1097, according to the system of accounting then followed, all refunds and drawbacks, the working expenses of the Anchal Department, of the Kodayar Irrigation project, and the loss on account of the working of the Shencottah-Quilon Railway were being shown on the expenditure side. But, from the year 1098, these items are being deducted from the receipt side, and the net receipts only, so far as the above heads are concerned, are shown on that side of the budget. This fact should be borne in mind, when comparisons are instituted in respect of the gross receipts or gross expenditure of the current year with the previous years or in comparing the percentage of expenditure on salaries, allowances, contingencies, etc., of the current year with those of the previous years. According to the above



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[Mr. R. Nilakanda-Pillai.]

principle of calculation, the gross budgeted expenditure of 1099 has to be taken for purposes of comparison at Rs. 208 lakhs, the receipts of the year being Rs. 210 lakhs.

Expenditure on departments may be broadly classified into five distinct groups as follows :—

(*a*) Expenditure which is of the nature of either treaty or legal obligations or which comes under the class of inevitable payments.
(*b*) Do. under salaries and establishment.
(*c*) Do. under travelling allowances.
(*d*) Do. under office contingencies and supplies and services, and.
(*e*) Other expenditure not covered by the above.

Out of the allotment of Rs. 208 lakhs for 1099 referred to above, an expenditure to the extent of Rs. 60 lakhs comes under Class A, being of the nature of either Treaty or legal obligations or of inevitable payments. The items included in the above category are subsidy, sinking fund, Palace, panivagai, H. H. The Maha Raja's Tours outside the State, political and other pensions, Devaswom contribution, railway loss, interest charges, refunds and compensations, Murajapam, and grants to Sripandaravagai and private temples. It may be stated that no retrenchment is possible so far as the above specific items are concerned.

As regards Group B, the allotment sanctioned under Salaries and Establishment amounts to Rs. 80 lakhs, which works out at the rate of 38·4 per cent. of the gross expenditure. It has already been stated before this Council that the net extra cost on account of the revision of salaries amounted to nearly Rs. 8 lakhs. The amount of scarcity allowance that was being paid prior to the recent reorganisation was Rs. $5\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs and the re-organisations have resulted in an extra cost of Rs. $2\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs over and above the scarcity allowance. The reasons which induced the Government to reorganise the services such as the rise in prices and wages, non-official opinion as reflected in this Council, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the public platforms and the press, etc., are detailed in Chapter II of the report of the Salaries Committee—a committee which consisted of officials and non-official members of the old Legislative Council. One of the references to the Salaries Committee was to consider and make recommendations as to the extent if any to which the existing staff could be reduced. The committee considered not only the question of salaries and allowances of officers drawing Rs. 150 and below but also considered the question of retrenchments in respect of appointments carrying a salary of more than Rs. 150. In accordance with the recommendations of the Salaries Committee, the Government have also reduced the number of appointments above Rs. 150, so far as they could, consistent with efficiency and the needs of a progressive administration. The total number of appointments thus reduced both in the higher and lower ranks of the service amounted to 1160 gazetted staff 65,

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executive subordinates 247, ministerial staff 451 and menial staff 397. This itself has caused a serious dislocation in the services, from the effects of which there has not been sufficient time to recover. As the subject of salaries and allowances has very recently been considered by a committee of officials and non-officials, it would be inadvisable to appoint at present an all-embracing committee like the retrenchment committee proposed by the mover to consider the same over again.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*) : Not the same; not a committee on salaries.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : I have first of all dealt with inevitable payments. I am now speaking only of salaries and allowances.

The Government have always in view the question of retrenchment, consistent with efficiency, and the following retrenchments effected after the re-organisations in the various departments, may be cited as illustrations :—

(1) The allowance of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies has been reduced from Rs. 150 to 100 per mensem.

(2) The Stationary Magistrate's Court at Paravur was abolished.

(3) The scale of pay of the Inspector of English Schools has been reduced from B. Rs. 400-750 to S. Rs. 400-500.

(4) The pay of the appointment of Commissioner, Devicolam, was originally Rs. 700. It has now been revised and fixed at Rs. 500-700.

(5) The appointment of the Oil Assistant has been abolished.

(6) The scale of pay of the Chief Engineer has been reduced from Rs. 1,200-1,400 and fixed at Rs. 1,200 per mensem.

(7) The scale of pay of the Medical Officer, Nayar Brigade, has been reduced from B. Rs. 800-1,000 to Rs. 600-750.

(8) The scale of pay of the Professors of H. H. The Maha Raja's College has been reduced from B. Rs. 400-750 to S. Rs. 300-700.

The question of reducing the number of clerks and peons in the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies is engaging the attention of Government.

In this connection, I admit that retrenchments are possible here and there; but they can be effected only when suitable opportunities occur and it is doubtful whether a committee as suggested by the mover would be in a position to effect any immediate retrenchments.

Coming now to Group C, *viz.*, the allotment for travelling allowances, it may be stated that the present proportion in relation to the gross expenditure works up to 2·07 per cent. It was 2·10 in 1092, 2·05 in 1093, 2·00 in 1094, 1·94 in 1095, 1·96 in 1096, 2·07 in 1097 and 2·14 in 1098. It will be clearly seen that the percentage under travelling allowances during the current year is lower than in past years, in spite of the increase in the number of officers like experts and officers who have to travel all over the State, on account of the expansion of the various Development Departments in the State. The question of *reducing*

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[Mr. R. Nilakanda Pillai.]

the amounts in the existing rates of travelling allowances is still engaging the earnest attention of Government.

As regards Group D, *viz.*, expenditure under office contingencies and supplies and services, the percentage at present is 10·7, the lowest on record during recent years, except that in 1093 when the percentage was 10 only. The percentage from 1087 to 1089 was about 12; in 1094 it was 13·1 and in 1097 it was 14·4. From the above figures, it will be seen that the allotment under office contingencies in 1099 is lower now than in recent years and steady efforts are being made to reduce it still further.

With regard to Group E, *viz.*, expenditure not coming under the categories dealt with above, it may be stated that the total budgeted allotment for 1099 is Rs 41¼ lakhs. The items comprising the above groups are discount on sale of stamps (Rs. 44,000). grants-in-aid to schools, stipends and examination charges (Rs. 9 lakhs), grants to industrial schools (Rs. 16,000), grants for medical purposes (Rs. 41,000), P. W. D. Works and tools and plant (Rs. 22½ lakhs), maramat works (Rs. 2 lakhs), expenditure on irrigation (Rs. 1 lakh) and forest conservancy and works (Rs. 5¼ lakhs).

The rate of discount on sale of stamps was reduced only recently. I do not think that the Council would seriously contend that expenditure on the other items mentioned, which conduce to the moral and material well-being of the people, should be reduced. Indeed the complaint is that we do not spend enough in these directions.

Thus it will be seen that further retrenchment is not possible in respect of several items of expenditure consistent with efficiency, and that, wherever possible, retrenchments are being effected by Government either on their own initiative or as the result of the suggestions made by the Finance Committee or of the discussions in this Council and the Popular Assembly. Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar has made reference to the shift system in education and the handing of English schools to private agencies. These are all good suggestions and it is for the departmental officers to work them up. It is doubtful whether a retrenchment committee would be able to help them.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Can they not understand these things?

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): That is not the point. So far as Government are concerned, they have already passed orders that the departmental schools can be handed over to private agencies, and it is for the private agencies to come up and take charge of them, and a committee is not necessary for the purpose. It is, after all, doubtful whether an all-embracing and general committee, as contemplated by the mover, consisting of officials and non-officials who may not be expected to be familiar with the technique of such widely divergent departments as the Medical, Engineering, Industry, Agriculture, Forest, etc., could make recommendations which can be readily accepted without challenge and acted upon.

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Reference has been made on a previous occasion to the retrenchment committee appointed in Mysore. This committee, known as the Special Finance Committee, was appointed in February 1922 at a time when the Mysore Government had to meet a heavy deficit of about 42 lakhs, practically representing the Interest and sinking fund charges on the rupee loans of about Rs. 335 lakhs, contracted during the two years immediately preceding, chiefly for financing capital works such as the Krishnaraja Sagara and the Bhadravati Iron Works. Besides, the Mysore Government had to sell away securities to the extent of Rs. 144 lakhs pertaining to their surplus investments, to finance the capital works referred to above. Fortunately for us, we have made sufficient provision for our sinking funds and they are all invested in gilt-edged securities; our surplus investments remain intact; we have not to face deficit budgets and our Government balance is expected to amount to Rs. 72 lakhs at the close of 1099. Under these circumstances, it may safely be stated that the state of affairs that prevailed in Mysore prior to the formation of the retrenchment committee does not exist in Travancore at present. The Dewan of Mysore in his Address at the recent Dasara session of the Mysore Representative Assembly has stated that the essential factors which ensure complete financial stability are: (1) a balanced revenue budget; (2) provision of funds for continuous development operations according to the declared policy of Government; and (3) maintenance of an adequate reserve for meeting all liabilities that should reasonably be anticipated. I may state that all these conditions which ensure the financial stability of a State do exist in Travancore. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the Mysore Government itself was not in a position to carry out several of the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The committee wanted that the Bhadravati Project should not be pushed through; but the Government had to order otherwise in spite of the committee's opinion to the contrary.

Again it has been suggested that a committee similar to the Inchcape Committee should be appointed in Travancore to make recommendations about retrenchments. I must repeat that the conditions which existed in British India prior to the formation of the Inchcape Committee do not exist in Travancore. The Inchcape Committee was appointed at a time when the Government of India had to face heavy uncovered deficits. Their military expenditure had gone up from 29½ crores of rupees in 1913-14 to nearly 71 crores of rupees in 1922-23, and the appointment of a committee was therefore inevitable. The retrenchments proposed by the committee amounted to 19½ crores of rupees. But the Government of India were able to effect retrenchments only to the extent of 12½ crores of rupees. Even after carrying out all the possible recommendations of the Inchcape Committee in the budget of 1923-24, the uncovered deficit amounted to Rs. 4½ crores which had to be covered by the imposition of an enhanced duty on salt. In this connection I may state that some of the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee have been severely criticised as unworkable in various authoritative quarters. As an instance, the following extract from the speech of

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[Mr. R. Nilakanda Pillai.]

Mr. Colvin, President of the Railway Conference which sat at Simla, a few days ago, may be quoted:

"Some of the arguments used by the Inchcape Report could well be questioned. For example, it was stated in the report that while the stock of waggons had gone up since 1914 to 21 per cent. the tonnage conveyed in any year subsequent to 1914 was only 8·8 per cent. in excess of the tonnage conveyed in 1914. To a practical railwayman, such a statement at once suggested a query as to the similar percentage of increase in mileage figures (the only real indication of work done) and when he finds (in an appendix to the report itself) that this figure shows an increase of over 41 per cent., he may perhaps be forgiven if he wonders if the committee had quite grasped the full meaning of all the statistics they were so liberally furnished. Furthermore, I think, many of us felt that in the recommendation that working expenses should be curtailed to the extent necessary to insure that under normal conditions an average return of at least 5½ per cent. is obtained on the capital invested by the State in Railways, the committee has not made it sufficiently clear to the ordinary reader of their report that, at the present time, conditions are not normal, and that until such time as the existing arrears of maintenance and renewals have been overtaken, it cannot be claimed that normal conditions have been established. Even when the war was over, the Central Government, so far from refunding any portion of the money that would normally have been used on repairs and renewals of their railways, proceeded to levy further large sums from the railways, by the imposition of a goods surtax. To talk therefore of the failure of the railways to yield an economic return at the present time seems to me to be calculated to give to the man in the street a distinctly false impression. You will no doubt recollect, that in making recommendations for reductions the Inchcape Committee also recommended that such reductions should be made at the expense of the non-remunerative lines. This particular provision must have caused considerable anxiety among the agents of such lines and their relief must have been great when they discovered that the Government in allocating the reductions between the different railways had apparently disagreed with the recommendations of the committee".

From the above it will be seen that some of the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee were found to be impracticable in actual working and that the Government of India, however anxious they might be, were not in a position to give effect to several of them.

The appointment of a committee like the one suggested by the mover is not a panacea for all evils. Even if such a committee be appointed, it may be quite possible for the heads of departments to convince the committee that not only should the existing grants should be not reduced but that they ought to be doubled. Again, retrenchment committees should not be appointed except as a last resource. They have a tendency to shift responsibility from the proper shoulders and complicate issues which are at present reasonably simple. The machinery of administration is not built up in a day, and if we wish to modify and simplify it, our action must be steady, well-considered and gradual. Sudden retrenchments hardly ever result in permanent economy and the difficulties attending them are particularly great.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Have I said that a sudden retrenchment should be made?

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Of course, when the committee is appointed, they will naturally recommend a sudden retrenchment.

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In the course of the debate in Parliament on the report of the Geddes Committee regarding the Munitions Department, it was stated that the committee had found time to examine only 3 per cent. of the expenditure and that if they proposed to examine the remaining 97 per cent. at the same rate, it would take them the rest of their lives. A committee not consisting of experts acquainted with the technique of one and all the departments dealt with could not be expected to make effective suggestions for retrenchment. Each department, and sometimes even each branch thereof, requires a very patient and a very thorough study, and a general and all-embracing committee of the sort which the mover suggests cannot be expected to do the work efficiently within a reasonable time. The work of the Salaries Committee has been characterised by the mover as unsatisfactory. It is quite possible that the work of a Retrenchment Committee that may be appointed by this Council may be questioned by another Council. Government, as we are aware, have been appointing committees to study and report on the working of individual institutions such as the Government Press and the P. W. D. Workshops, when the necessity for them is made out. If any good is to come out of a committee for retrenchment, it can be expected to come out of only such committees.

Under these circumstances, I beg to oppose the resolution.

Mr. Madhava Variar said that Mr. George had made a statement at the Medam session of this Council that officers here should not be paid less than officers in the Mysore service. I may point out that Mr. George did not say that the officers here should be paid at the same rate as the officers in Mysore.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I was quoting him.

Mr. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): I am also quoting him. My object is to show that the officers here are not overpaid and that the cost of the superior service is not excessive. If Mr. Madhava Variar wants information about the salaries of officers in Mysore, I can very well give him the information. Any how it is not relevant here.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether a good deal of outlay is not necessary in the immediate future in view of the extension of railways, the establishment of a University, and also of the Cochin Harbour?

Mr. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): I may say that the outlay on capital works is generally financed out of loan funds.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ശമ്പള ച്ചിലവു മുതലായതു പുരുക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരു കമ്മറി വേണമെന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ മാധവവാരിയരുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യോന്നതിക്കായി ഓരോ നൂതന കാര്യങ്ങൾ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു നാഗരികതയത്തെ

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

യും എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും ജനക്ഷേമത്തേയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിന വളരെ ധനവ്യയം ആവശ്യമാണ്. ഈ വിധത്തിലുള്ള വ്യയത്തിന ആതനങ്ങളായ നികുതികളം ചുമത്തുക എന്നവന്നാൽ പണ്ടേതന്നെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിചിരിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളം കൂടെക്കൂടി ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നതിനിടയാകും. അതിനാൽ ശമ്പളചിലവു ചുരുക്കുകയും ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്താൽ ആ വകയിൽ ഉള്ള മുതൽകൊണ്ട് മുൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെയുള്ള പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളം ജനങ്ങളംക്കു സങ്കടം കൂടാതെ വരുത്തുന്നതിന സാധിക്കും. പല ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും കുറച്ചുകളയാം. പല ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടേയും ശമ്പളവും കുറയ്ക്കാം. ഉദാഹരണമായി റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുതന്നെ എടുക്കാം. റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണർ ഉള്ളസ്ഥിതിക്കു പേഷ്കാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഡിവിഷൺ അസിസ്റ്റൻറന്മാരെ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ കമ്മീഷണരെന്നോ മറെറാ പേരുകൊടുത്തു വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ മതി ഇപ്പോഠം ജനങ്ങളംക്കും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട്; ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട്. സാധുക്കളായ കൃഷിക്കാർ ഒരു ഹർജികൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു കമ്മീഷണരുടെ അടുക്കൽ വന്ന അവസാനമായ ഒരു തീർച്ച കിട്ടുന്നതിനു വളരെ കാലതാമസം വേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. ഓരോ ആഫീസിലും പലതരത്തിലുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടകം കൃഷിക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങളംക്കുണ്ടാകുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷക്കാരായ കൃഷിക്കാർ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നിമിത്തം വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട് അനുഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതു ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ജനക്ഷേമത്തിലുള്ള ഉദാസീനതകൊണ്ടാണെന്നു പറവാനില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങളംക്കു ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ഗവർൺമെൻറിന് അധികച്ചിലവുമാണ് ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളം വർദ്ധിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു്. സാനിട്ടറിവകുപ്പും ആവശ്യമില്ല. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലും പാശ്ചാത്യദേശങ്ങളിലും ആവശ്യമായിരിക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇവിടെയും വേണമെന്നില്ലല്ലോ. ഗ്രാമങ്ങളായിക്കൂടിജീവിക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം കേരളത്തിൽ നടപ്പില്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതി ഒന്നു പ്രത്യേകമാണ്. ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ ആണെങ്കിൽ സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകാർ കൊള്ളാം. വിഷൂചികമുതലായ സാംക്രമികരോഗങ്ങളം പകരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു പൊട്ടാസ്യംപെർമാങ്ങനൈറ കിണറുകളിൽ ഇടുകയോമറെറ ശുചീകരണവേലകളം ചെയ്കയോ ഒക്കെ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ ഇവക്കു സാധിക്കും. ഇവിടെ ജനങ്ങളംപലയിടത്തായി താമസിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് എതുകിണറിലാണ് ഇടേണ്ടതു്? ഇവിടെ ഓരോ വീട്ടിനും ഓരോ കിണറാണുള്ളതു്. ഈ വകുപ്പിനെ വേണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചു് വാക്സിനേറെറഴന്മാരെ അതതു സ്ഥലത്തു

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ള്ള ആശുപത്രികളിലെ ഡാക്ടറന്മാരുടെ കീഴിൽ വച്ചാൽ അവരുടെ ജോലി കാര്യക്ഷമതയോടെനടക്കും. ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ശമ്പള ചിലവു ലാഭവും ആകും. എവിടെയെങ്കിലും സാംക്രമികരോഗങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായാൽ ആ സ്ഥലംഏതാശുപത്രിയുടെ കീഴിലാണൊ ആ ആശുപത്രിയിലെഡാക്ടരുടെ കീഴുള്ള സാനിട്ടറിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു രോഗംപകരാതെഇരിക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കരണവേലകൾ ചെയ്യിക്കാൻഡാക്ടർക്കുകഴിയും. ഇവിടെ നഗരവാസികൾ തീരെ കുറവാണ്. അവർക്കുവേണ്ടി ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാവശ്യമില്ല. ഗ്രാമജീവിതമധികമുള്ള ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിലേപ്പോലെ ഇവിടെ ഈ വകുപ്പുകൊണ്ടു പ്രയോജനമില്ലാതെയാണ് കാണുന്നതു്. ഇതനുഭവമാണ്.

ഇതുപോലെ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഡയറക്ടരുടെ അസിസ്റ്റൻറിനെ കുറച്ചുകളയാം. ഇതിലെ മറ്റുപലചിലവുകളും വളരെ കുറയ്ക്കാം. ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരൻറെനിലയിൽ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ചിലവു് കുട്ടണമെന്നതന്നെയാണ് ഞാൻ പറയേണ്ടതു്. വല്ല പ്രയോജനവും കാണുമ്പോൾ ചിലവുകുട്ടണമെന്നു പറയാൻ ഞാൻ തയാറാണ്. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻറേയും കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു് ഹാനിവരാതെ കാര്യം നടക്കാൻ വലിയശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു ഗവൺമെൻറ് ഇപ്പോഴും വലിയ ശമ്പളം കൊടുത്തു് ഉന്നതപരീക്ഷാവിജയികളെ നിയമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അതിനനുസരണമായിട്ടു ജനക്ഷേമമുണ്ടാകുന്നില്ല. പുറത്തു കടന്നു ഓരോ പൌരന്മാരോടും ചോദിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ ഒന്നാമതായും രണ്ടാമതായും മൂന്നാമതായും നാലാമതായും ഓരോ പൌരന്മാരും പ്രതിനിധികളായിട്ടു പറയാനുള്ളതു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഞങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നാണു്. മാന്യസ്നേഹിതന്മാരെ ! നിങ്ങളും ഓരോ പ്രദേശത്തുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായി വന്നിരിക്കയാണല്ലൊ. ഓരോ നാട്ടിലേയും പൌരന്മാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം എന്താണു്? ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നും ഞങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കണേ എന്നല്ലേ അവർ പ്രധാനമായി പറയുന്നതു? ഈ നിലയിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു് കഷ്ടമാണ്. വലിയഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലരും ഓരോ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ എങ്ങനെ തീരിക്കുന്നു എന്നന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിൽ ശ്രദ്ധാലുക്കളായി കാണുന്നില്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടനിവൃത്തിക്കായി ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ ഈ സംഗതി പറയുന്നതാണ്. അല്ലാതെ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനേയൊഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരേയൊ പറഞ്ഞദ്വേഷമായിട്ടു് പറയണം എന്നു് എനിക്കുലേശം വിചാരം ഇല്ല. മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സു കൊണ്ടു് ഗ്രൌൺറ



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[President.]

പ്രജകളുടെ സുഖം എന്റെ സുഖം'' എന്നാണ് കല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അവിടത്തെ മന്ത്രിസത്തമനായ ദിവാനും ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ വളരെ ശ്രദ്ധാലുവായിരിക്കുന്നു, എന്നാലും മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽപലരുടേയുംഉദാസീനതകൊണ്ടു ജനസങ്കടം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു. അതു ഇവിടെ പറയേണ്ടതു് എന്റെ കടമയാണ്. വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു ചിലക്കു് കാരം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവരുടെ സഞ്ചാരംകൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗുണമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കൊള്ളാമായിരുന്നു. പലരുടേയും പേഴ്സനൽ അസിസ്റ്റന്റന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കാം. ജോലിയുടെ ആധിക്യം കൊണ്ടാണു് അവക്കു പേഴ്സനൽ അസിസ്റ്റന്റന്മാരെ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു് ഒരിക്കലും പറയാൻ പാടില്ല. ചിലക്കു് ഒരു മണിക്കൂർപോലും ജോലിയുണ്ടോ എന്നു സംശയമാണ്. ചിലവുചുരുക്കുന്നതിനു് ഒരു കമ്മറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതു് എത്രയും ആവശ്യമാണ്. വടക്കോട്ടു റെയിൽവേ നീട്ടുക, പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിർബന്ധിതമാക്കുക, ഇതുകാര്യം ചെയ്യുകഴിയുന്നതുവരെ തെക്കോട്ടുള്ള റെയിൽവേയും യൂനിവേർസിറ്റിയും വേണ്ടെന്നുവയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണു് ബഹുജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ചിലവുചുരുക്കേണ്ട സംഗതിയെപറ്റി ഒരു കമ്മറ്റിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശം ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കിട്ടുന്നതു വളരെ പ്രയോജനകരമായിരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തെ അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I have been closely listening to the interesting and learned speech of Mr. Nilakanda Pillai on behalf of the Government. I congratulate him on the ability with which he has delivered the speech which compares favourably with the very clever speeches of his predecessor, Mr. George. But, Sir, I should like to say without giving any offence to anybody, that the sentiments expressed in that speech made on behalf of the Government, the opinion about the capacity of the members of this House, the capacity of the mixed committee of officials and non-officials, is such as will induce the very paving stones of this House to raise their voice of protest. Mr. Nilakanda Pillai has observed that retrenchment is not the panacea for all evils. My friend Mr. Madhava Variar knows that as well as the Financial Secretary. It was also mentioned that some of these departments are so technical that a committee of officials and non-officials could not be expected to grapple with the questions connected with them successfully.

PRESIDENT: I do not think he said that. He said that the work could not be done by a committee of officials and non-officials within reasonable time.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, if some Account Officer of the Government or the heads of particular departments are able to evolve schemes to ventilate their views and induce the Government to give sanction to them within a reasonable time. I think this House and a committee of officials and non-officials are very much more competent to do so. My friend is a student of history, and as a student he has won distinction. He will remember that very much more technical subjects and very much more difficult things are discussed and decided by democratic assemblies such as the House of Commons. The argument, therefore, that, because these matters are technical, no good will be achieved by the appointment of committees of officials and non-officials cannot carry conviction to any one on this side of the House.

PRESIDENT: That is not what he said.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I beg to say, Sir, that there have been observations to that effect in his speech.

PRESIDENT: He has got the manuscript of his speech. It can be read even now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. Nilakanda Pillai may be asked to read that particular portion of his speech.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*):

"Each department, and sometimes even branches thereof, requires a very patient and a very thorough study and a general and all-embracing committee of the sort which the mover suggests cannot be expected to do the work efficiently within a reasonable time".

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): That is in effect what I said. Mr. Nilakanda Pillai said something about technique. I wish to hear that portion also read.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Probably in another connection. I will read that also.

"It is after all doubtful whether an all-embracing and general committee, as contemplated by the mover, consisting of officials and non-officials, who may not be expected to be familiar with the technique of such widely divergent departments as the Medical, Engineering, Industry, Agriculture, Forest, etc., could make recommendations which can be readily accepted without challenge."

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, that is exactly how I have been construing his words. The Financial Secretary fears that the committee will not be able to master these technicalities within a reasonable time.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): I did not say so. I said subject to qualifications. I said that they could not make recommendations which could be readily accepted without challenge.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I did not say that Government should accept the recommendations of any

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

committee without challenge. On the other hand, it is the sacred function of Government to consider the question carefully, to view the various aspects of the question both with regard to the principles and the details and then come to a conclusion. I never for a moment suggested that because a committee sits and decides any matter, the Government should unhesitatingly follow the recommendations of that committee. I must say that there are members on this side of the House and outside the House who have been studying public questions with a mastery which it will be very profitable to the Government, if made use of. I think a committee of this description will be able to understand the whole question without bias to departmental technique. Such a committee will certainly be helpful to Government. Many of the reforms whether suggested by the Salaries Committee or not and eventually carried out by Government, whether in the imposition of duties or levy of income-tax, had been suggested by non-official gentlemen whether in the Council or in the Assembly. I should therefore advise my friend Mr. Nilakanda Pillai to consider this question very carefully and believe that, if he wanted guidance, if he wanted any kind of advice, he could never get better help than from a committee like the one suggested by Mr. Madhava Variar.

But, while accepting Mr. Madhava Variar's proposition, I want to go a little further than that. Mr. Madhava Variar has given a good many figures and these have been supplemented by the veteran statistician on this side of the House, Mr. Kumara Pillai, and also amplified by my friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar. These figures show that there has been a feeling on the part of all of us that much of the tax-payers' money is spent on unsubstantial things and distributed by way of salaries to officers and contingencies and other allowances. I am one of those who think that the function of Government is not retrenchment alone. I want the Travancore Government to push forward its nation-building activities which are the legitimate functions of the State. Now these non-officials also have been studying these larger problems and they will be able to give constructive ideas of increasing our revenues. I want our income to be increased. I shall not describe the method of work in detail. I shall make only a suggestion or two. Take the case of rubber for example. The rubber exported may surely pay something in the shape of duty. I would refer to the question of the Interportal Convention and the question suggested by the Deputy President during the last session of this council that the natural resources of Travancore should be tapped in all possible ways. Therefore, Sir, I maintain that if the people will only think in broad lines, if they will profit by the opinion of people of other countries and of Travancore, certainly our income can be increased to a considerable extent; and after increasing that income we can devote that money to all matters that can make the Government useful to the subjects. Therefore, Sir, I think that Mr. Madhava Variar's proposition should be extended to cover not merely the question of retrenchment but also matters the decision of which will enable the Government to increase their income.

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I wish to observe that for several years past the Travancore Government have been spending money on recommendations by the heads of departments though in perfect good faith ; but these heads of departments who are responsible for certain revenues used to tell the Government that, unless an array of officers was created, revenue would be lost. And Government used to accept these suggestions and have been increasing the number and salary of these officers. Government have no doubt been good enough latterly to take us also into confidence and to accept our suggestions made in this Council relating to salaries and other matters. But, there is nothing like a general policy, nothing like a general scheme. Government should first prepare a statement showing how we stand in matters of finance, how to tap our resources, how to increase the revenue, and how to make more equitable distribution of our resources. All these are important documents that have to be prepared and of which a report should be published by a very competent officer or by a committee. Having done that, it will be time to take up the whole question in order that the proposal may be placed before the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja, so that in future it is only those suggestions which are productive of good to the country at large and which have been accepted by a competent committee of this nature that will be put into force. This will be an inducement to the people to continue to work even better than they are doing—I mean both the officials and non-officials—and the country will be satisfied that the money taken from the people is utilised for proper purposes. Therefore, Sir, I request Mr. Madhava Variar to extend the scope of the committee, in which case I shall be very happy to support him.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): Sir, in the first place I should like to take exception to the remarks made by my friend Mr. Madhava Variar in regard to the work of the Salaries Committee. He characterised the work of the Salaries Committee as superficial.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Patanamtitta*): Only in regard to the Government Press.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*) : I did not understand that he referred only to the Government Press. I simply wanted to take exception if it were made as a general remark. As regards the Government Press, I may also say that that question of the Government Press has been considered not only by the Salaries Committee but also by the Efficiency Audit Officer. It was one of those institutions he inspected and in respect of which the opinion of the Efficiency Audit Officer was taken into consideration. He had made suggestions to Government in regard to how reduction must be made and how the institution should be worked. So far as I have understood the proceedings issued from the Government, most of the suggestions made by the Efficiency Audit Officer have been adopted. The only question before the Salaries Committee was the one about the pay of the staff. In regard to the pay, Government have in the main accepted the conclusions of the

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[Mr. M. Raja Raja Varma]

Committee. As regards retrenchment, a special committee has been looking into the working of the Government Press and their suggestions did not add very much more.

I wanted to say that the Salaries Committee which was composed of officials and non-officials was appointed to look into similar questions of revising the pay of officers drawing Rs. 150 and below. If the work of the committee which was to do work in a small sphere and which was composed of officials and non-officials—all the non-officials except Mr. Raman Tampi are members of this Council—if such a committee could not be trusted to make a recommendation acceptable to the people, then I cannot understand how a retrenchment committee which has to deal with very large problems such as the one suggested by Mr. Madhava Variar—and Mr. Velu Pillai, wants to extend it to problems concerning the sources of revenue also—would be able to get the confidence of Government, in regard to the conclusions that they may arrive at. I have my own doubts.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Was the Salaries Committee competent to go into questions of policy when it considered the question of the revision of salaries ?

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): In regard to the revision of salaries their action related only to the existing conditions. Whether the pay of the officers was sufficient for the work which they were asked to do and to keep them on in their posts was the question before the Salaries Committee.

So I say whether a Retrenchment Committee is going to come in for a better fate than the conclusions of the Salaries Committee which was also composed of officials and non-officials, is a matter for consideration.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know from Mr. Raja Raja Varma whether any witnesses were examined by the Salaries Committee with the object of getting views from them.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): No witnesses were examined because the question was confined to the pay and salaries of officers. But we had full reports from the head of each and every department who gave us full information as to the work he was supposed to do and the staff that was given to him. Again, as the Efficiency Audit Officer, the President had the benefit of going into most of the typical offices in the State and examining their work and also discussing questions with the officers on the spot.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I wish to know whether the Salaries Committee referred to by Mr. Raja Raja Varma was empowered, as a matter of fact, to enquire into the possibilities of retrenchment in regard to the services above Rs. 150.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): So far as retrenchment was concerned, I had a special authorisation from

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the Government that the committee might consider the question of retrenchment also above Rs. 150.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I beg to know whether the Salaries Committee did, as a matter of fact, enquire into all the possibilities of retrenchment above Rs. 150.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*) : They did.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I think the question that was referred to the Salaries Committee was confined to the adequacy of the salaries of officers.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): No. The last of the terms of the reference to them was to what extent, if at all, the existing staff could be reduced. No limitation was placed so far as that was concerned.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : I wish to ask a specific question whether the Salaries Committee considered the feasibility of making the revenue officers collect *kists* and other dues from Abkari shops and thereby enabling the Government to dispense with the services of a certain number of Excise Inspectors.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*) : That aspect of the question was not before the Committee. What I mean to say is that the reduction, so far as the officers were concerned, and their amalgamation, if it was possible, were in the scope of the work of the committee. The committee did not look at that question for the reason that the Revenue and Excise Departments worked separately and on different principles altogether.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the Salaries Committee acted upon the information and the opinion given them by the heads of departments.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*) : The information was at the disposal of the Committee from the heads of departments and also from the Efficiency Audit Officer.

A larger committee like the one now proposed, as stated by Mr. Nilakanda Pillai, is bound to take more time to investigate into the actual working and especially in regard to the technical departments and their needs. But in the case of many departments it is only possible to arrive at conclusions on what the heads of the departments have to say. For, it cannot be gainsaid that the head of the department has got an intimate knowledge of the working of the department and so he must be able to tell the Committee what they can do. Supposing the Committee differs from the opinion of the head of the department or the members of that committee, the only conclusion will be that the committee will be simply committing something which either the head of the department or probably the Government may find it rather difficult to examine.

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[Mr. M. Raja Raja Varma.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is it a fact that several representations made by heads of departments were overruled by the committee?

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): The Committee did not certainly accept the recommendations made by the departmental heads wholesale.

A further committee is bound to be very much more costly. That is one aspect of the question. Another point is whether we have got the condition precedent for the appointment of a retrenchment committee and whether we would have sufficient scope for the work of such a committee. No doubt Mr. Madhava Variar has given us suggestions as to certain ways in which the retrenchment could be effected; and they are, some of them, certainly very useful ones. Retrenchment can be made only by reduction of staff or of the contingent grant. These are the only two ways in which a reduction could be made. As regards the reduction in the staff, it was only very recently that the Salaries Committee has been able to arrive at a conclusion and recommend the same to Government who accepted most of the recommendations made by them. Within a period of one year or two certainly it is not possible to consider whether any further reduction could be made, particularly because we have not yet recovered from the dislocation caused by the absorption of supernumeraries. As regards the amalgamation of departments it is a very much larger question which could be dealt with only after a great deal of enquiry and that by an expert who knows exactly the conditions.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I wish to know whether the Salaries Committee went into the questions of decentralisation of powers and the amalgamation of departments.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): They were not in the terms of reference. Another matter is—

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): With regard to the suggestion made by Mr. Madhava Variar that certain experiments should be tried by which retrenchment could be made in Education and various other departments, I should say that these experiments have to be tried before we can see whether real retrenchment could be made at all and it should be left to the head of the department rather than to a committee. I have one other reason also to urge against the committee which, if appointed, will be a very costly concern, because it will have to tour through the whole State and examine each department minutely.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Raja Raja Varma what will be the probable cost of such a committee?

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): I am not in a position to say it at present. That will primarily depend upon the constitution of the committee.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will not any expenditure in that behalf be justified provided it is for the real good of the State?

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): Whether it is to be for the real good of the State is the question. Because, if the conclusion come to is to be dismissed as superficial as in the case of the Salaries Committee, certainly it is not a good thing to the State. For these reasons, I oppose the resolution.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the Salaries Committee was actuated in the main by the views of the heads of departments who were consulted?

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): Their views were also considered and also the independent views particularly of the non-official members. The whole question was discussed by them.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Every question will have two sides. One side may be pressed by particular heads of departments. Now, what I wish to know is whether the other side of the question was put before the committee by anybody or any person.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): They were discussed by the non-officials themselves.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Sir, my learned friend Mr. Madhava Variar wants this House to appoint another committee to consider the question of further retrenchment in public expenditure. It is a very noble idea to cut down public expenditure as much as possible without following the precept of that poor boy who told his father: "அப்பா அப்பா நானு பணம் சம்பாதிச்சேனுங்க", *i. e.*, 'father, I earned one fanam yesterday'. When the father questioned the boy how he managed to earn one fanam so soon, he said "இராமுழுவ தூங்காம படுத்தேனுங்க!" meaning "I starved the whole of last night'

I am afraid the very request of the learned mover to appoint a committee for the purpose will result in additional expenditure of the public money when the object of the mover is to reduce expenditure. I am sorry I am not now in a position to know how many committees are already in existence for various purposes already sanctioned by this House and what amount of money is spent from the public exchequer for the said committee. I am strongly of opinion that the mania—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I object to that word and I want Mr. Karayalar to withdraw the word 'mania'.



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[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Then I use the word 'wish'. I am strongly of opinion that the wish to appoint committees is increasing by leaps and bounds. I have my own suspicion that some of the members of this House are already members of several committees and there is a loud talk among the public that the members of this House are earning a considerable amount in the shape of *batta* and travelling allowance in their capacity as members of so many committees—

PRESIDENT: I object to that portion. You must withdraw that.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, I have no objection to withdraw it. For my own part, I have no objection to the formation of any number of committees, provided the honorable members of this House would be willing to serve on the committees as honorary members as we are expected by our constituents whom we have the honor to represent in the Council to work for the good of the public at large. Those who work for the public in all civilised countries as a matter of fact do undergo a good deal of personal inconvenience and also spend a considerable sum of money from their own pockets; and I need not submit to this House the names of the various illustrious men who devote their life and money for the public cause.

If my humble views stated above are acceptable to this House, I have no objection to the formation of any number of committees and I earnestly request my learned brothers to give their hearty support and consideration to my humble views in the matter.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I am of opinion that there is yet scope for further retrenchment and that any suggestion for retrenchment should invariably receive the full sympathy and support of the Government. But I am of opinion that at this stage a separate committee need not be appointed, and that the schemes suggested by the learned members should be placed before the Finance Committee and that ample power and opportunity should be given to the committee to consider the schemes suggested.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): Sir, I have been listening with very great interest to the debate we have had on the resolution moved by Mr. Madhava Variar, and I wish to offer for the consideration of the House and of Mr. Madhava Variar certain views suggested to me in the course of the discussion. Before I proceed further, I wish to say at the outset that one thing that has bewildered me and which might have bewildered other members also, who may happen to share my limitations, is the manner in which, in the course of the discussion, we have departed more and more widely from the resolution of Mr. Madhava Variar. Mr. Madhava Variar has moved for a committee of officials and non-officials for the consideration of the question of *further* retrenchment

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in public expenditure. But, when I listened to the debate, I found that, as envisaged by many members, the object of this committee is to go into the the question of general principles which are to be laid down for the guidance of the Government in regard to their financial *policy*. We are to consider the question of further retrenchment. We are *also* to consider the question of ways and means, of stimulating the Development Departments to do their work better so as to make the State stand the great stress that it may have to stand in the years to come.

Now, Sir, I quite sympathise with the motion for the appointment of a committee of retrenchment if sufficient reasons are shown for the immediate sanction of such an inquest. I quite sympathise similarly with a motion for the appointment of a committee to look into the question of the financial policy. But in this case we have a kind of association of two such proposals; and in the course of the argument, there has been a certain amount of mutually destructive work done by the supporters of each measure, because some of the arguments used for advocating a wider enquiry are not applicable to support the suggestion for the smaller enquiry. I believe this is the difficulty that has arisen in grasping—in fully understanding—the position of my friend, the Ag. Financial Secretary, when he traversed the whole ground with great thoroughness. The Financial Secretary has been able to point out that if it is a question of going into details, certain details have already been sufficiently threshed out time after time, that for a proper investigation in the remaining matters of detail, a committee that may be appointed will have to sit and go into details of the working of the departments, that no ordinarily constituted committee of the usual dimensions will have the time or opportunity to do this work, and that when you get any ultimate retrenchment, it will hardly be compensation for the amount of time of the official and non-official members that we have expended on the matter. Mr. Velu Pillai very correctly asked whether any kind of expenditure would not be justified if a great public advantage would be secured. I am entirely in agreement with Mr. Velu Pillai in assenting that any expenditure the Government may incur for the purpose of improving financial ways and means, and for the purpose of securing the utmost economic results in the working of the administration cannot be regarded as wasted at all. But the point for us to consider is whether the appointment of a large committee of this nature is likely to result in those advantages which Mr. Velu Pillai, along with the non-officials on his side of the House, desires.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar whether Mr. Madhava Variar advocated the appointment of a large committee?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I think I referred to committees such as those which are now being constituted, and some of the committees are, as Mr. Velu Pillai might speak with experience, sufficiently large to make business not quick enough and precise enough.

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[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether the question of retrenchment will not cover the changes in the administrative policy which will have the effect of reduction in expenditure?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I will answer Mr. Padmanabha Pillai's point when I proceed a step further. Sir, my complaint is this, that the issues have been obscured by two lines of argument, one supporting a big financial *inquest* into the *entire* financial *policy* of the State, and an inquest into the *increase* in expenditure in various directions. But, on the other hand, there has been a certain amount of suggestion that definite cuts are possible in various departments and that the outlook of this committee should be restricted to these purposes. My point is that you cannot argue *both* these propositions on one and the same set of arguments. I do not want to elaborate this point any further because I think the members of this House will consider this matter and be able to see for themselves that the two have to be supported on somewhat different grounds.

Proceeding further to the question of the appointment of this committee, it seems to me that the Financial Secretary has made an effective appeal to the advocates of this committee when he pointed out that any analogy that we may get from the experience of places outside Travancore would not apply here. Retrenchment committees are suggested at rare intervals when expenditure has abnormally increased and is likely to increase. For instance, the apprehension very widely entertained that the educational expenditure had been mounting by leaps and bounds was the justification for the appointment in this State of an Educational Retrenchment Committee; and in the same way, when there is a wide spread apprehension that any particular department is getting a great deal more of the public resources than it ought to, there might be some kind of justification for a committee. The general idea that because our *total* annual expenditure has been steadily increasing, therefore there is a necessity for a Retrenchment Committee, is somewhat analogous to the argument that because our population goes on increasing between census and census, we ought to consider whether we should not take means for procuring a stationary population. It seems to me that, in the case of a growing State—a State in which the people have a growing standard of life—it is inevitable that the expenditure will grow as the income also is growing.

In thi particular case, when gentlemen are suggesting retrenchment, they forget, for the time being, or they want to forget for the time being, the income of the State. When they want to suggest retrenchment, they are not prepared to recognise that there is a considerable amount of starvation in various directions and a more liberal treatment is called for. What I wish to urge on the

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House is that in this important matter we are to consider whether there is sufficient justification *at the present time* for advocating a committee which has to deal with only one of a multitude of intimately connected matters. I quite agree with Mr. Velu Pillai that it is not possible really to deal with a question of retrenchment with any claim to practicableness *unless* we are prepared at the same time to take up the question of wider financial policy and of the financial policy of the Development Departments and their claims. Then, why ask for retrenchments? In the case of the Inchcape Committee, and in the case of the other similar committees, they have been necessitated by the extravagance alleged in various departments. I do not know whether it has been seriously suggested at any time in this House, either to-day or before, that the Government are not extremely vigilant in this matter. It seems to me that, at the present time, a committee may be regarded as superfluous because everybody who wants to have additional expenditure has apparently to run the gauntlet of at least *five* different sets of opponents. So long as we have a Financial Secretary—I wish to be forgiven for making the reference—I think every head of a department and everybody on the official side and a considerable number of other people will agree when I say that, in blocking departmental applications for grant, the Financial Secretary by himself is sufficiently strong and powerful to be equal to ten retrenchment committees. (*Hear, Hear.*) Whoever is able to induce the Financial Secretary to sanction the expenditure he suggests until a considerable amount of dunning has been done and a persistent pressure has been applied, is a person who is extremely fortunate.

MR. T. K VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar whether during the last twenty years the Financial Secretary or his legal predecessor in office has suggested any measure for the improvment of the finances and whether any new item of income has been added as a consequence thereof?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I think the obvious reply to the question put by Mr. Velu Pillai is a reference to the financial statements and the speeches of the Financil Secretary for those years. I have no hesitation in suggesting that our present finances are the result of the suggestions that have been made, I believe, in the Finance Department.

However, Sir, my point is that at the present time we have as many as five inquests before any expenses are sanctioned, and there are five different opportunities for having not only some obstruction to the passing of a new scheme of expenditure but even to suggest retrenchment. If only the non-official members will, by way of experiment, suggest some expenditure and then feel the weight of the Financial Department, they will feel that a committee is hardly likely to be half as strong as the Financial Secretary is. This is the first inquest.

Secondly, there is a Standing Finance Committee and its work has been fairly effective as has been testified to in our last financial discussion.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Thirdly, even when the Finance Committee has made a certain number of sanctions, the Government ask for the justification of every bit of expenditure and consequently subject the schemes to further scrutiny.

Again, are we not entitled to take some credit to this Council itself in this work of scrutiny in view of the prolonged discussion we have had, and in view of the very thorough manner in which not only the broad questions of policy in regard to expenditure but also questions of detail have been attacked and treated with very great thoroughness in this assembly? It is that thing which I think will give very strong support to Mr. Velu Pillai when he claimed that there is no step taken in regard to the work of suggesting cuts in expenditure and all that without the Council having a say on it and that the members of this House are quite as able as officials to make valuable suggestions for cuts. It is well-known that the privilege has been in existence and very liberal use has been made of it. The Council thus forms the fourth line of defence.

Lastly, we have the previous enquiries in this matter. Thus we have altogether five reasons for not having anything like a further enquiry immediately. If we are going to have further enquiries in this matter, may I ask how it is possible to give real satisfaction either to the members who constitute these committees and to the Government or to the House itself? There is first of all the impracticability of the work being done within a reasonable period of time. The members of this House have not an unlimited allotment of time. It must be said that non-official members have been extremely generous in this matter and I should not omit to add my testimony in regard to the very liberal way in which they have sacrificed their conveniences. I am sure, if there is a need,—a very real need for exploring our financial position,—the non-official members would be very glad to do it. The question is, are we justified on the evidence that has been put forward before us to-day, which, I may be forgiven for saying, is not of a very strong character, in urging the immediate appointment of a committee for the purpose of taking away so much of non-official and official time without the certainty of our being able to advance in our enquiries to a reasonable extent?

Another point is, what finality will attach to this Committee's findings? The Financial Secretary has largely considered the expenditure. We know that the Finance Committee which has been appointed has not been able to stop the floodgate of criticism against the financial proposals which the Finance Committee has been to some extent at least been shaping.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know if he is aware that the Finance Committee cannot refuse to pay the salary of an officer who has been appointed by His Highness the Maha Raja and who has been working for the previous months of the year?

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RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I am quite aware of it. What I am suggesting is that it must be conceded—and the gentlemen on the other side will bear testimony to it—that as far as the position of officers who are appointed by His Highness the Maha Raja is concerned, the latitude of criticism that has been given to this House is greater than anywhere else, and shows that the rule has been allowed to be strayed from and interpreted in an extremely liberal spirit. I am entitled to claim on behalf of the Government that there has been no attempt whatsoever to protect such officers and the general financial policy from any kind of criticism; and Mr. Velu Pillai, who has utilised this opportunity more than any one else, must be the first to bear testimony to the liberal manner in which the permission has been made use of.

There will be some further difficulty in having this committee. If there is to be some finality, what finality is it going to be? What we ourselves say here is not going to be final. With our fluctuating possibilities of membership in these days, unless they appoint for *each* Council one Retrenchment Committee and one general Finance Committee if not more, no real finalty can be had. I am reminded of the mental condition of some people who are constantly under the apprehension that all is not well with their neighbours and insist on their undergoing daily medical examination while they seem to be enjoying for all practical purposes very robust health. Unless we are going to be in that position, I do not myself see what advantage is going to be gained by appointing this committee.

On the other hand I admit, the discussion itself is not going to be useless. Mr. Madhava Variar's point is to press once again the need for the utmost vigilance in regard to income and expenditure. If the views of his friends on the other side are that every opportunity should be utilised for making the Government realise their responsibility I urge the object has been gained. I do not believe any head of department here or anybody else wants to increase the peril to which Mr. Kunjitomman referred with so much feeling, namely, the peril of multiplying the number of officers. That is the position. Nobody here is justified in saying that it is otherwise and it is this that makes the whole proposal altogether superfluous. My point, Sir, ultimately, is that the suggestion that has been put forward is for either a very large inquest or for an inquest of a kind which has already been dealt with before, and therefore it is either impracticable or needless duplication.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I rise to a point of order. Is there not a time limit to official members?

PRESIDENT: I have a discretion. What Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar says is important; but I have been calling his attention to time.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Certainly, I must submit to the Chair; only I brought it to the notice of the Chair.

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[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

MR. K.C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): The members of this House, even when they differ from Mr. Madhava Variar, have learnt to recognise that any proposal coming from him is made with the best of motives and that he is actuated by a single-minded devotion to the highest interests of the State. Therefore one is inclined at the very outset to view any proposal coming from him with a considerable degree of sympathy and approval. The sympathetic speeches delivered by the non-official members of this House in support of this motion are indicative of the extreme solicitude evinced by the representatives of the people for placing the finances of the country on a stable and sound basis. It is admitted on all sides that the financial condition of a State must be guarded always with the greatest vigilance and that as far as possible a baianced budget must be maintained. Whenever there is seen any tendency for expenditure to mount up beyond the resources of the country, the Government as well as the representatives of the people grow anxious and all possible measures are taken to keep the budget within proper limits. Now, the remedy suggested for the great increase of expenditure in Travancore is the appointment of a committee of retrenchment. The appointment of committees for all subjects has, ever since the time of Lord Curzon, been the order of the day. Some of these committees have been very fruitful while others have been comparatively barren of results. After the Legislative Council has been reorganised, we too have had a number of committees. These committees involve a good deal of expenditure and also much dislocation of the work of the officers of Government. Therefore, unless there is great justification and a considerable degree of assurance that the appointment and the working of these committees will be fruitful of adequate results, one should be very reluctant to support a proposition to increase their number. For my part, I have got my own misgivings about the utility in the immediate future of the appointment of the kind of committee advocated by Mr. Madhava Variar. We have had a Salaries Committee very recently; as far as was possible, with the time and the conveniences placed at their disposal, they have done all that they could to place matters on a proper basis. I would here point out that the net result of their labours has been to bring about not any reduction but a considerable increase in the expenditure. Another committee appointed so soon after the recent Salaries Committee may not, in my opinion, be productive of any substantial result to justify the expenditure of time and money involved. If you go on appointing another committee for regulating expenditure or for suggesting retrenchment, it may be said that one way in which we try to cut down expenditure is by appointing some committees which themselves will involve increased expenditure. Moreover, as has been pointed out, a committee in order to be able to make effective recommendations must not be a large or an unwieldy one. One would much more prefer small committees containing experts conversant with the working of each department and

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also sometimes one or two non-official representatives who can speak with authority on the subject, taking up the working of each department and suggesting up-to-date improvements or pointing out any defects in the technique or of the machinery of the department. The result of the working of such a committee should not be expected always to bring about a retrenchment; if, in the interest of better administration and efficiency it becomes necessary that there should be more expenditure, the committee should have absolute discretion to recommend increased expenditure; on the other hand, if consistent with efficiency expenditure can be cut down, of course, it goes without saying that all possible expenditure ought to be cut down. It is with this kind of committee that I feel more sympathy than with a committee for overhauling or reorganising all the departments of the State in a lump. That is my personal opinion. And it may be taken for what it is worth. Each may have his own opinions or predilections in the matter.

But as has been pointed out by Mr. Velu Pillai one should like to hear more about possible ways in which the income of the country can be developed. There is a limit beyond which retrenchment is not possible or is not desirable in the interest of efficient administration. I daresay that in several directions we have reached that stage. No doubt, each one of us can point out certain directions in which it may be possible to reduce the expenditure. It is however possible for individuals to point to a few items in expenditure in which reduction may be possible. On the whole, I am of opinion that any substantial reduction in expenditure is not feasible under present circumstances. Therefore, the most urgent and important thing that our Government have to tackle is the consideration of the development of the resources of the country. That is what is being done in Great Britian, by the Imperial Conference. The one cry that we hear is not so much about retrenchment as about the possible development of the resources of the country. There may be different directions, different ways in which progressive Governments are doing that. It is possible for us to take hints from those deliberations and from those conclusions, and from those measures. I do not say that all those deliberations and measures are strictly applicable to conditions in Travancore. But when they are applied to our local conditions and with intelligence and circumspection, I think it would be possible for us to devise measures that may be in some way beneficial to the development of the resources of our country. Now we have not done anything worth mentioning in this matter. I hope in the near future our Government will be able to come out of the ruts in which they have been moving for the last so many years for producing a balancing budget and try to chalk out a bold and new line by which the development of the resources of the country may be promoted. That is the line which I would recommend. I therefore do not consider that, under the circumstances, the time and expenditure involved by giving effect to Mr. Madhava Variar's recommendation is justified.

The Rev. Fr. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): I do not pretend to know all the internal workings of



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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

the several departments of the State and whether the present staff is necessary to carry on the administrative work. I know there is a cry in the country that the public service is overmanned. So I think it is in the interest of both the Government and the people to appoint a committee to examine the administrative machinery and see whether any parts of it could be done away with without impairing efficiency. I think that such a step would tend to clear off many misunderstandings and also would help to increase the confidence of the people in the Government and also would tend to the smooth working of the State machinery. I believe that with this object in view the Government have been appointing a number of committees such as the Salaries Committee, the Education Retrenchment Committee and lately the Press Committee and the Workshops Committee and so forth. Soon after the appointment of so many committees I am not for an all-embracing committee like the one which Mr. Madhava Variar advocates. Many of the recommendations made by the committees that have already been appointed have not yet been carried out. So I think we should wait and see a little more; and meanwhile if there is any department in which we see that expenditure is going up by leaps and bounds, a minor committee could be appointed to look into the working of that particular department. We have also, as Professor Rangaswami Aiyangar said, a Standing Finance Committee and then the Council to check the expenditure. At this stage, I would not advocate an all-embracing committee, as suggested by the mover; but if necessary I would advocate some minor committees for those departments in which we see the expenditure is going up by leaps and bounds.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I rise to support the resolution before the House. I am sorry I was not able to listen to our official friends on the other side and the arguments of their allies on this side. (*Laughter.*) But from what I have been able to gather, the objection to the resolution seems to centre round two or three small heads. One objection seems to be this, that in the near past a few committees have been appointed for the purpose of going into and examining the finances of the State. One or two such committees evidently have been appointed. One of such committees was a committee formed by the Efficiency Audit Officer with respect to whose report the Financial Secretary himself on a prior occasion said that he was not prepared to accept the recommendations of that officer. According to the Financial Secretary, he was no expert in the matter. So even the officers condemn that particular report.

Coming to the question of the Salaries Committee, to which reference was made by Mr. Mammen Mappillai we have to bear in mind the limitations under which that particular committee laboured. That committee was a committee which, if I may use a figurative expression, was working in a bell jar from which the air had been practically extracted. That was the position of that committee. Reference was also made to the Finance Committee constituted of a few non-official members of this

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House as well as a few official friends. With respect to that committee we had a strange spectacle on the occasion of the recent discussion of the budget here. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, who happens to be on that committee, complained that he had not the necessary powers to examine and inspect all the items or to suggest his own views on the finances of the State. Mr. Velu Pillai immediately challenged Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's desire for a roving commission of inspection, and reading certain authoritative treatises, pointed out that such a Finance Committee could possibly have no such powers as demanded by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. Then it was pointed out that this Council itself was at perfect liberty to go into all the finances of this State and that it was not necessary to have a further committee. We clearly realise our own difficulties in that matter, that beyond the one hundred and twenty-five rupees line we are not allowed to peep in. We feel that the restraint placed upon us is a very severe restraint. Accordingly we have to resort to methods which are not of the overt type but of the covert type and try to dislocate the financial arrangements proposed. In many an instance we get repulsed. That is the experience of this House, so much so that, when the Opposition speaks of an examination of the finances of the State, they do not take into consideration the sort of the restraint under which the examination was being carried in the past by the various committees of this House as well as the Finance Committee. As a matter of fact, what is aimed at in the resolution that is now before the House is to have an examination of the whole finances of the State—income as well as expenditure—and then to propose possible methods of retrenchment, to keep in view the correlation between the subordinate services of the State which alone seem to have been subject to repeated examinations as well as the position of the superior stratum in the Government service. Without a correct perspective of the correlated position of these two strata, it is impossible to arrive at a sound policy so far as the question of retrenchment is concerned. It is that view that is now pressed before the House by the resolution that is moved by Mr. Madhava Variar.

Then it was also pointed out all the time, that the labour and the energies to be wasted upon the deliberations of the committee which is under the contemplation of Mr. Madhava Variar will not repay. I beg to submit that a matter of fact the officials profess that the work carried on by the Salaries Committee, by the Finance Committee and the other committees of which mention has been made is really a piece of serviceable work. To that extent and *pro rata*, the difficulties and energies of the committee yet to be appointed will be minimised. Therefore, it is no good exaggerating the possible labours of a committee to be appointed for the complete examination of the finances of the State.

Then it was also asked whether there was certainty that further room could be found for possible retrenchment. This is not a matter which is to be viewed as a sanction to prosecute which is granted only when there is an assurance that a conviction will generally result. That is not the spirit in which the whole question is to be viewed. We seek to convince the Financial Secretary and those who are in the

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

know about the question. We are kept outside that particular matter. We want to have a thorough examination. Now you give only certain results. We want to have a look into the whole question, and if as a matter of fact when on examination you are on sound and tenable position, all right. There would be a resultant satisfaction that what is being done in the matter of finance is properly done. If on the other hand it is possible to pick holes and suggest substantial reductions in the expenditure, then why do you not allow the country to have a voice in the matter? That is the spirit in which the resolution is put before the House; and I request at least the non-official section of the House to pay their serious attention to the question at issue. With these observations, I heartily support the resolution.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I wish to refer to one or two points that have been commented upon in the course of the debate. Reference has been made in this connection to the work of the Finance Committee. During the last budget discussion, I referred to that point to show that it has not been possible for the Finance Committee to examine schemes of retrenchment in a satisfactory manner. The State Budget to be presented before the Legislative Council in the first week of Karkadakam is placed before the Finance Committee for examination during the previous week. The hurried examination of departmental budgets from day to day cannot certainly be expected to serve the needs of the resolution that is tabled before the House to-day. Ever since the constitution of the Finance Committee, I might say that there has been no opportunity whatever for us to discuss any scheme of retrenchment in regard to any particular department. It is up to the Government to place before the Finance Committee schemes which may be discussed by that committee. I have not received any assurance from the Financial Secretary in the course of the debate this evening that such schemes of retrenchment will be prepared in respect of particular departments and will be placed before the Finance Committee for detailed examination; and in the light of the observations made by him it is impossible for us to expect that he ever intends to make any such scheme available to the Finance Committee, because the attitude of the Government bench and that on this side of the House in regard to the matter are mutually exclusive. We think that further retrenchment is really possible and ought to be made or at least a fair examination ought to be held in that respect. But the Financial Secretary says that here and there it may be possible to effect some retrenchment or other, but that after all it is not worth making. It is a positive assertion on the one side that all possible retrenchment has been effected in respect of public expenditure and it is a positive assertion on this side that there is still ample scope left for further retrenchment being made. In that view, it is certainly impossible for us to expect any definite scheme of retrenchment being placed before us in respect of any particular department by the Government. Now the main reason for demanding the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee

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appears to me to be due to the fact that the Government themselves are not convinced that there is any possibility of any further substantial retrenchment and Government cannot therefore be expected to place any constructive scheme before the Finance Committee. Let us appoint an independent committee with the object of examining the question without the predilections of either the Government bench or the non-official opinion. In that spirit I should certainly support that resolution. It has been stated by Mr. Nilakanda Pillai that it was quite possible for departmental heads to convince the Committee that, after all, they have effected all possible retrenchment worth mentioning. In that case the cry will stop. A detailed examination of the whole question will satisfy us. Let us try the experiment and let us be given an opportunity to ascertain the exact situation. That is all that we ask for. And that can be done either by the Finance Committee being empowered to go into that question or a committee being appointed independent of it. I suppose the question still remains unsolved and I must take exception to two statements made in regard to such committees. There is the demand. It was suggested that, after all, the result of the labours of that committee may not inspire any confidence. Now I had better leave that question alone. I suppose that Government when they appoint such committees expect honest work at their hands. I suppose also that when the representatives of this House say that a representative committee should be appointed, it is with a view to see that their labours are fruitful of good results. Certainly their confidence has been rightly placed on their own representatives and it is not open to any member of Government to state that their opinions will not inspire confidence.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Devaswom Commissioner*): I rise to a point of personal explanation. What I said about it was that, so long as the Salaries Committee which was originally composed of officials and non-officials, all except one of whom are also members of this Council, if the work of that committee could be treated as flimsy, there is no reason why, if a similar committee be appointed for the purpose now, their recommendations should not be dismissed likewise.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkarai*): I see he did not put forward his argument seriously. He must have been influenced more or less by the criticisms offered by the members of this Council on the Salaries Committee's report. I do not think that any member of this Council ever said that they did not attach any value whatever to the recommendations of the Salaries Committee.

One other observation and that in conclusion I wish to make is this. It was rather lightly stated by one of my friends on this side of the House that ever so many committees are appointed and that these committees involved a lot of expenditure and that they caused considerable dislocation of work. I should consider that, if this Council ought to be of service to the public and to the country in general, that end can be



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[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

achieved more by useful work done by the committees of this Council than by the discussions carried on in this very House. Any practical measure can be carried out only by committees of this House sitting separately upon these questions and bestowing their mature consideration, rather than coming over here with insufficient materials and imperfect knowledge and stating their dogmatic views upon questions of vast importance. I would, therefore, earnestly request the members of this House to realise that substantial work could be done and is elsewhere turned out by small, competent and properly constituted committees and that ought to be our aim. I should certainly view with regret the sort of criticism that has been levelled against the appointment of committees of this House and the work turned out by them and I oope such criticism will not find any favour whatever from members on this side of the House.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, I have only to say a word or two in this matter. I think, considering the importance of the subject, it is absolutely necessary that we should give the matter all the consideration that it deserves. I stand now to give my full support to the proposition now before the House. The main objections from the Financial Secretary, as far as I was able to understand, to the appointment of a retrenchment committee are, in the first place, his opinion that, unless the Government is faced with a serious deficit, there will be no case for the appointment of a retrenchment committee. As instances, he pointed out the retrenchment committees appointed by the Mysore Government as well as the Inchcape Committee appointed by the British Government and justified those appointments on the ground that, at the time those committees were appointed, those Governments were confronted with great deficits. The second argument of his was that after all out of Rs. 190 or Rs. 194 lakhs which constitute the expenditure of the State for a year, over Rs. 80 lakhs of rupees form inevitable or necessary expenditure which cannot be cut down or interfered with by the Government and therefore the rest of it is alone open to cuts of retrenchment. And in regard to the rest he stated that the Salaries Committee was appointed by the Government to look into the matter and that that committee's reports having been considered by the Government, there was no case for the appointment of a committee of retrenchment. Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar urged also another reason as to why no committee need be appointed, and that is that a case for the appointment of a retrenchment committee can only arise when the expenditure in particular departments has been going up by leaps and bounds or to an abnormal degree, when it is required of the State to appoint a committee to look into the matter and see how far that expenditure is absolutely essential or not. According to him, no case had been made out for a retrenchment committee. As an instance he pointed to the Education Retrenchment Committee which he justified on the ground that at the time that committee was appointed the educational budget had risen to an abnormal degree and therefore there was need to scrutinise that budget.

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MR. K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I rise to a point of correction? I said a *feeling* existed and not that a need had arisen.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Thank you. Now, are we to understand from these arguments that there are not circumstances justifying the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee? Take for instance a case which has been before the Council. That is, there is a feeling in the country that the top service of the Government at any rate is very much overmanned. There is a feeling that the salaries of some officers are much higher than they should be and that several appointments have been created not because there was need for those appointments but for the purpose of providing places for certain persons, *i.e.*, appointments have been created for certain persons and not persons have been appointed to places.

Several such instances have been brought before the House by the learned mover of the resolution himself.

PRESIDENT: I do not think he mentioned any specific instance.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): He mentioned certain directions—

PRESIDENT:—in which according to him retrenchment was possible—

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*):—by reducing the number of appointments in certain departments.

Now if there is a feeling in the country that there is a possibility of reducing expenditure by abolishing certain appointments and reducing the salary of some of the higher officers, are we to suppose that, because there is no deficit and the State is able to pay these extravagant salaries of the unnecessary officers that the State may still incur, we should not consider the question as to whether those appointments are necessary and whether those salaries could not be cut down? In such cases, are we to understand the learned Financial Secretary to mean that so long as the State is able to bear all expenses, we need not consider whether these appointments are necessary, whether the money is properly spent or whether the money is being wasted—that those things need not be considered so long as the State is able to pay without arriving at a deficit? Certainly I do not think they will lay down such absurd principles, and it appears to me that if there is such a feeling and if a proper case is made out in regard to that, the Financial Secretary himself will be the first person to say that the Financial department will go into the question. If that is so, Sir, we have to consider this question from two standpoints, *i. e.*, it is not enough to say that we have been able to cleverly adjust the income and expenditure of the State, to make a balanced budget, as it were, from year to year, and that, therefore, no further enquiry into the way in which the finances of the State are being acceptable need be made.

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

But we have to meet two objects. In the first place we have got this feeling and this persistent cry that there is possibility of retrenchment in the matter of appointments as well as in the matter of development of resources. There is also the other thing, that before long the Government will have to commit itself to spend very large sums of money for the progressive development of the country. Some of those directions have been pointed out, such as universal primary education, the establishment of a University, the development of industries and so forth. When the Government have got to meet this expenditure, there will be no money unless new resources are tapped and the present expenditure of Government is considerably curtailed. For these two reasons—in the first place the existence of this feeling, and secondly the need for the proper development of the state, which requires large sums of money for the Development Departments of the State—it is necessary that we should look into the matter and see whether any retrenchment is possible on the expenditure side and also see on the other side whether there are not resources that should be tapped and developed properly. For these reasons, I strongly support the proposition now before the House.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): From the speeches which I heard from some of the learned members of this House, I am led to believe that there is some misapprehension with regard to the scope of my resolution. The purport of my resolution is to consider further possible retrenchments in public expenditure. I am aware that the Salaries Committee have made certain recommendations with regard to the reduction of salaries in the public services. But that committee concerned itself only with the question of salaries and that too with the salaries of only certain persons and the terms of reference to the Salaries Committee were limited and the above committee were not able to consider the questions of decentralisation, redistribution, amalgamation with other departments or such other wider questions concerning the financial policy of the State. So, the report of the Salaries Committee does not help us very much in the consideration of the resolution before the House. Then one important objection to my resolution is that this contemplates an all-embracing committee. I do not know how committees appointed to inquire into the working of a separate department can comprehensively state the policy of the State with regard to finance. There is a Press Committee; there is a P. W. D. Committee. These committees will say all about the details of the Stores or the Press. These committees cannot comprehend a wider outlook of the financial policy or cannot formulate broader schemes of financial importance. That is why I suggested the constitution of an all-embracing committee. I think that the expression "all-embracing" has been misunderstood. It does not mean a large committee. It does not exclude the Finance Committee. Some members suggested that there is a Finance Committee. Why do you want another committee? All right. Invest

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the Finance Committee with the powers of retrenchment. I am quite satisfied and I think the Finace Committee can make very good suggestions with regard to retrenchment. It ought to be invested with very much larger powers. Then the object of my resolution will be fulfilled by the Finance Committee. Some of my friends suggested: "why do you spend so much money upon committees?" Then it is better to appoint one committee. This committee can enquire into the working of each department separately. This committee could formulate certain broad schemes and enunciate broad policies. That is not the object of the minor committees. Then some of my friends asked what is the use of appointing a retrenchment committee when all the recommendations of that committee will not be accepted by the Government. The recommendations of the Inchcape Committee were not completely accepted by the British Government. So also the recommendations of the Mysore Retrenchment Committee. Then what is the use of appointing committees whose recommendations may not be accepted by the Government in *toto*. I think that is hardly the kind of argument to be advanced in an assembly like this. If Government are not prepared to accept the recommendations of a committee, well then, the only conclusion to be drawn is that the Government is not responsible to the public. The object of my resolution is to show that there is a feeling in the country that the Government expenditure is sometimes extravagant and the public service can be improved. The people must be satisfied; and the only way of satisfying the people is to constitute a committee to enquire into the questions of retrenchment. Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar was arguing that we have got a bold Financial Secretary and asked us to believe him. He is very extravagant. In this age of democracy when people want to know every step taken by Government I think we are not going to convince ourselves by the Financial Secretary's statement. I want to assure Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar that the members of this Council are not going to be convinced by his arguments. That argument itself shows that there is further scope for retrenchment. The Salaries Committee was satisfied with the opinions of certain departmental heads. They sent questions to certain departmental heads who wrote back certain answers. Those answers were discussed in the committee and they were quite satisfied. They never cared nor did they have any opportunity to cross-examine departmental heads to convince the Government that the expenditure could be reduced. That is the sort of committee which I propose by this resolution.

Then Mr. Mammen Mappillai was saying that the development of resources was needed more than retrenchment. I advocated a policy of retrenchment in order to find more funds for the development of resources. I have clearly pointed out that too in my first speech. With these few observations, I would like to press the motion.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I have very little to add to what I have already stated. I never said that retrenchment is not possible. My predecessor, Mr. George, has already stated that retrenchment is possible here and

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[President.]

there and that Government are doing all that is possible to effect retrenchments. The Rev. Father Vettikkapalli has stated that the Workshops Committee and the Press Committee are small committees and that the proposed committee will naturally be an unwieldy one. As a matter of fact the proposed retrenchment committee will have to deal with various departments and as such it will, in the ordinary course, take a very long time to submit its report.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the maximum amount of time required for this?

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Probably it will take two or three years, since it covers so many departments.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know what time the Geddes Committee took?

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): I have no definite information.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): And the Inchcape committee?

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): It took some 3 or 4 months. I have already stated that some of the recommendations of the committee were found to be impracticable in actual working.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether the Financial Secretary is aware that the Mysore Government had appointed a committee in 1909 and that it was sitting for a long time?

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): I am only aware of the recent Special Finance Committeee appointed in 1922.

MR. G. PARAMESVARANN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know why the Financial Secretary apprehends that there will be conflict of opinions and impracticable recommendations.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): That is the general experience elsewhere.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): We do not want anything extraordinary here.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai stated that the budget is not presented sufficiently early for discussion in the Finance Committee.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That is not my point.

PRESIDENT: He said that the Finance Committee had to examine the budget in haste.

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MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): It is to some extent inevitable as we have to embody ten months' figures in the budget. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai wanted an assurance that all retrenchment schemes would be referred to the Finance Committee.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What I said was that no definite scheme of retrenchment was placed before the Finance Committee. I was not particular that a committee should be appointed if definite schemes were placed before the Finance Committee and if they were given sufficient time to examine particular departments.

PRESIDENT: I do not think there can be any objection to that.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. George has already stated that all new schemes will be placed before the Finance Committee.

PRESIDENT: He speaks of retrenchment schemes and not new schemes.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): All retrenchment schemes will be placed before the Finance Committee.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Has any retrenchment scheme been placed before the Finance Committee?

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): I think such schemes were placed.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Hereafter the Financial Secretary must at least give us an assurance that future retrenchment schemes will be placed before and discusssed by the Finance Committee.

PRESIDENT: Under the constitution there is nothing to prevent such schemes being considered by the Finance Committee. I think there has not been enough time for formulating and placing such schemes before the Finance Committee.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): In this connection, I may say for the information of the House that according to the latest figures available the surplus of last year amounts to nearly Rs. 8 lakhs.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has any financial forecast been made of the probable addition to public revenue that we may have for the next twenty years?

PRESIDENT: That is not quite relevant to the resolution in hand.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I will explain its relevancy. When I was speaking I urged that the resolution should not only be accepted but also extended. But the appointment of a committee would thresh out several matters connected with finance. I leave the question to you.

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PRESIDENT: I now place the resolution before the House.

The Resolution was put to the vote and lost, 15 voting *for* and 23 *against*.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result: —

AYES 15.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai | Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai |
| ,, A. Govinda Menon | ,, Joseph Panjikaran |
| ,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai | ,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai |
| ,, S. Krishna Aiyar | ,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai |
| ,, T. Kumara Pillai | ,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai |
| ,, M. R. Madhava Variar | ,, K. Dominic Tomman |
| ,, P. K. Narayana Pillai | ,, T. K. Velu Pillai |
| ,, M. N. Pillai | |

NOES 23.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. I. C. Chacko | Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar |
| ,, Paul V. Daniel | ,, R. Nilakanda Pillai |
| ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai | ,, S. Paramesvara Aiyar |
| ,, L. C. Hodgson | ,, P. Paramesvaran |
| ,, M. K. Khadir Pillai | ,, W. H. Pitt |
| ,, R. Krishna Pillai | ,, C. Ramankunju |
| Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai | ,, M. Raja Raja Varma |
| The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli | Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar |
| Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan | Mr. S. C. H. Robinson. |
| Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai | ,, V. Subba Aiyar |
| ,, K. C. Mammen Mappillai | ,, S. Subrahmanya Karayalar |
| | ,, A. J. Van Ross |

The resolution was lost.

PRESIDENT: We will now rise and meet again at 11-30 to-morrow.

The House rose at 5-43 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
*Secretary to the Legislative Council.*

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